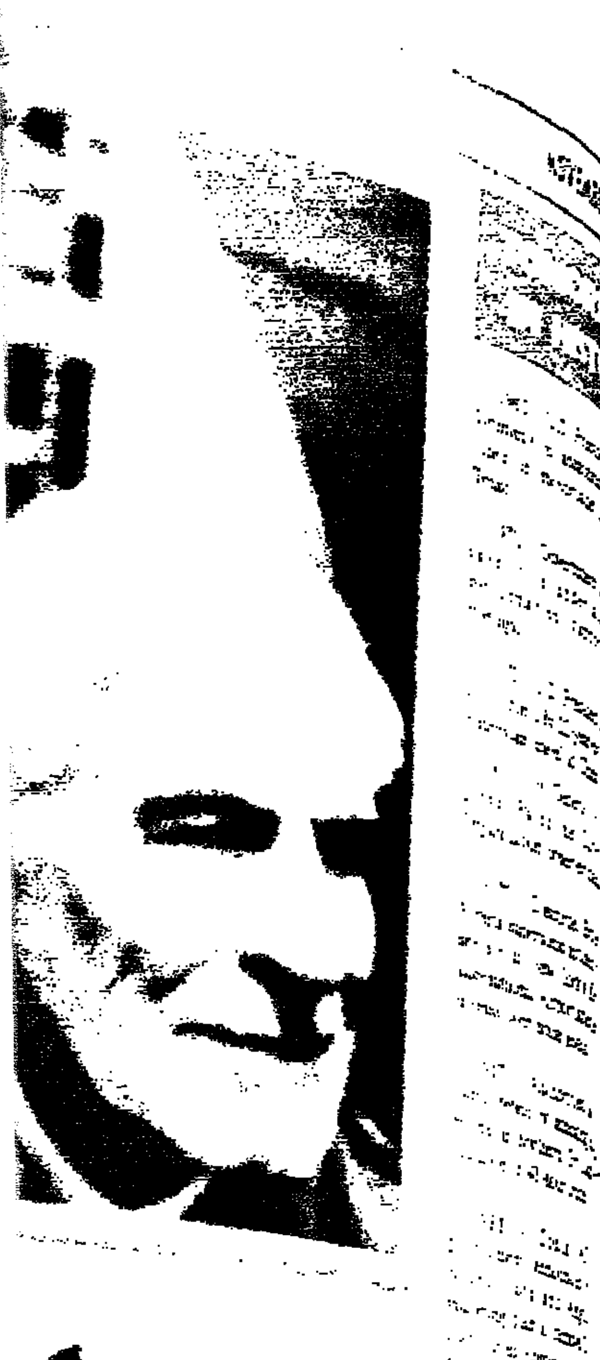




TEHRAN TIMES

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159 UN Observers to Monitor Oil-for-Food Deal With Iraq

UNITED NATIONS — More than 150 UN observers are to monitor the distribution of food and medication obtained by Iraq in the context of the "oil-for-food" deal, a UN spokesman said Tuesday.

According to a preliminary report by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to the UN Security Council, there were to be 151 observers monitoring the situation in Iraq and another eight at the United Nations headquarters. (Contd on Pg.14)

Petrol Bombs Used in Serb Hate Campaign Against Muslims

Compiled From Dispatches

SARAJEVO — Serbs have hurled petrol bombs and hand grenades at Muslim civilians as part of a hate campaign in a northern Bosnian town, UN police reported Wednesday.

More than 30 cases of harassment against Muslims living in the Serb-held town of Teslic have been reported over the past two months, said UN police spokesman Alexander Ivanko.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

OPEC Leaders Upbeat on Oil Market

VIENNA — OPEC ministers begin their winter meeting here Wednesday in an upbeat mood despite the prospect of seeing Iraqi crude trickling back into the market within weeks rather than months.

With the prices of the benchmark west Texas intermediate and North Sea Brent now about 25 percent higher than a year ago, and OPEC selling prices showing similar rises, the ministers have every reason to be satisfied, a senior delegate said.

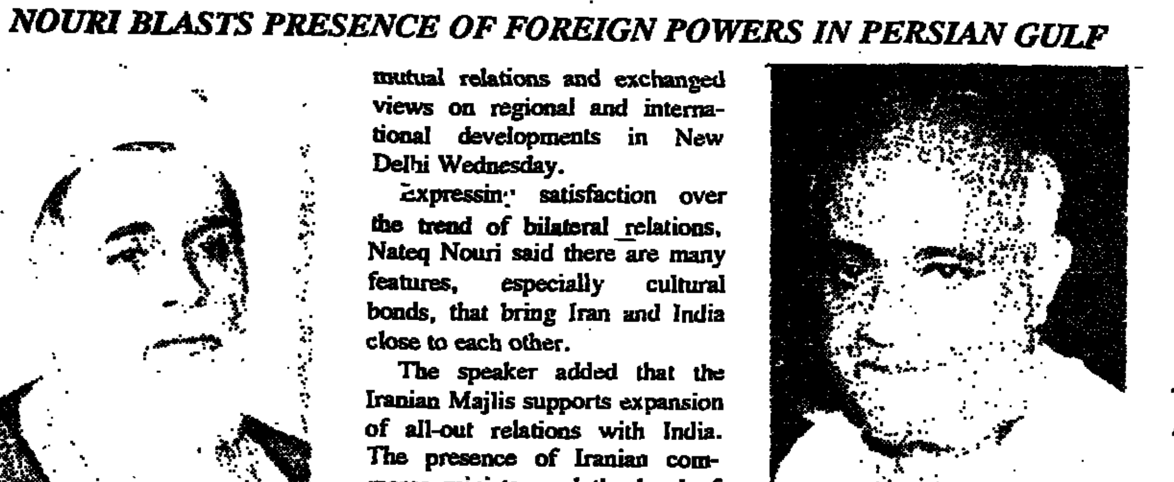
He said that included Ali al-Naimi, the powerful oil minister of OPEC's dominant producer Saudi Arabia, which is reportedly well on its way towards restoring its financial health through this year's oil price windfall.

Algeria's Energy and Mining

(Contd on Pg.14)

Iran, India Support Peaceful Settlement of Afghan Crisis

NOURI BLASTS PRESENCE OF FOREIGN POWERS IN PERSIAN GULF



NOURI

GOWDA

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran's Majlis Speaker, Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, and Indian Prime Minister, Deve Gowda, surveyed avenues for further expansion of mutual relations and exchanged views on regional and international developments in New Delhi Wednesday.

Expressing satisfaction over the trend of bilateral relations, Nateq Nouri said there are many features, especially cultural bonds, that bring Iran and India close to each other.

The speaker added that the Iranian Majlis supports expansion of all-out relations with India. The presence of Iranian commerce minister and the head of the chamber of commerce in the Iranian delegation indicates that the two countries are willing to take new steps towards strengthening bilateral ties.

Commenting on Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Nateq Nouri stressed that the movement should be strengthened, as "it is conducive to the interests of nations and the members."

The Majlis speaker voiced concern over the prevailing situation in Kashmir and said that Tehran maintains that the problem should be settled only by considering the demands of the people of Kashmir.

Nateq Nouri further announced Iran's readiness to help and mediate to settle the Kashmir problem.

Indian prime minister expressed satisfaction over the growing trend of cooperation between the two countries, saying that India is eager to expand cooperation with Iran.

Touching on the Afghan crisis, Gowda said Indian government supports the outcome of the Afghanistan conference held in Tehran and recognizes the government of Rabbani as the legal government of Afghanistan.

(Contd on Pg.14)

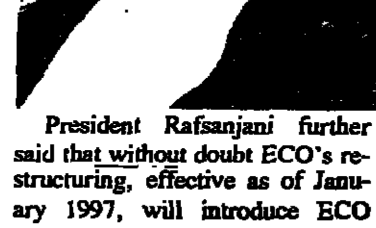
President Rafsanjani Sends Message to ECO Members

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN- President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here yesterday faxed a message to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) members on the occasion of the organization's celebration of ECO Day today.

ECO Day which has been initially designated today is a commemoration of the entry of new members: the Republics of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kirghyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

"I certainly hope that the ECO members will succeed in achieving the goals and ideals of their people as crystallized in the Izmir accord, in view of their profound political, economic and social bonds, age-old cultural and historical commonalties and using their potentials," wished the president.



President Rafsanjani further said that without doubt ECO's restructuring, effective as of January 1997, will introduce ECO into a new era of activities.

The president underlined the need for an expansion of ECO's transregional activities, saying it will be conducive to economic growth and development.

Israel Renews Shin Beth Mandate for Use of Torture

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS – The Israeli government on Wednesday renewed for three months the right of the Shin Beth intelligence service to use "heightened physical pressure" against Palestinian prisoners, officials said.

The prime minister's office said a ministerial commission tasked with overseeing the Shin Beth defended its decision by pointing to the threat facing the Zionist state.

Israeli law has since 1987 allowed the use of moderate physical pressure during interrogation of Palestinian prisoners, in defiance of criticism from human rights groups.

Authorization for "heightened" physical pressure in cases of prisoners suspected of concealing information on an imminent attack is renewed every three months.

On November 14, the Supreme Court gave the green light for the Shin Beth to use "heightened" methods against a suspected Islamic Jihad militant, Mohammad Abdelaziz Hamdan.

The UN committee against torture condemned the decision, saying that no crime could justify torture.

(AFP)

France, U.S. Attack Netanyahu's Settlement Policies

SYRIA: ARABS MUST FORCE NETANYAHU TO CHANGE COURSE

PARIS — France said Wednesday it was very concerned over comments by Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu pledging to ensure Jewish towns on the West Bank will grow and prosper "forever."

"The encouragement this gives to the development of settlements in the Palestinian territories appears counter to the interim autonomy accord," signed in Washington in September 1995, said the Foreign Ministry.

"Such a policy, if it is confirmed, would risk creating new sources of tension and new blocking factors," said spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt following Netanyahu's comments Tuesday.

"French authorities are convinced that peace and security in the Middle East cannot be forged without respecting the accords already reached," Rummelhardt continued.

"It wants to believe that the Israeli government, which has said it is ready to press ahead with the peace process, will stick to their commitments," he said.

Netanyahu is to meet President Jacques Chirac on Monday during the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) summit in Lisbon.

The United States has also criticized the Israeli premier's comments, calling them "not useful and .. not constructive."

Meanwhile the United States criticized Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Tuesday after he pledged to ensure Jewish towns on the West Bank will grow and prosper "forever."

"Certainly if you look ahead to the peace negotiations, between Israel and the Palestinians, Israel and Syria, this is not useful." State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said. "It's not useful and it's not constructive."

Netanyahu earlier told Jewish settlers in Eli near the West Bank town of Ariel that "ariel must expand, it needs more schools, swimming pools, houses, couples."

(Contd on Pg.14)

Greater Jihad to Confront Cultural Assault



HADJI AKHOONDI

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Deputy Secretary of the Cultural Revolution Council and member of the Public Culture Council, Abbas Hadji Akhoondi, here called the confrontation against cultural assault the great Jihad, adding it is a responsibility of the entire country to mobilize all its

(Contd on Pg.14)

Russian PM Slams West's Persistence Over NATO Enlargement

PARIS — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin hit out here in Paris Tuesday night at the West's "obstinacy" in seeking to extend NATO eastwards, in a way as to threaten Russia's "national security".

Chernomyrdin who is here on a two-day working visit, called for a "privileged partnership" with France in order to "build a Europe without dividing lines".

Speaking at a dinner in his honor given by his host Prime Minister Alain Juppe at the Foreign Ministry, Chernomyrdin said: "We welcome the increasing closeness of our positions and those of France regarding such thorny issues as changes in NATO and the alliance's eastward expansion."

But he said the "obstinacy demonstrated by certain forces in achieving this goal at whatever cost, without regard for the legitimate national security concerns of Russia, threatens to complicate both the military and geo-political situation on the European continent."

Europeans must "be able to decide their destiny without advice from outside", he said in an allusion to pressure from the United States to speed up the timetable for admitting new members to NATO.

The Russian prime minister said he hoped the forthcoming summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Lisbon on December 2 and 3, would be the "start of a process to put into a place a new security architecture for Europe".

Juppe said France wanted a "new European architecture which does not recreate the fracture lines in Europe.

"All European countries must feel they have a role to play in the common security of Europe and must be brought into the talks underway," Juppe said.

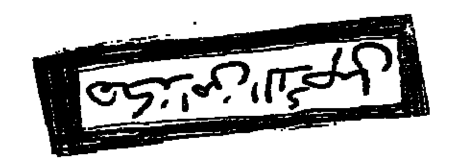
France has called for Russia to be represented at the NATO summit on enlargement, which is scheduled for the first half of next year.

(AFP)



SAID SAGADA, West Bank, (November 22): Palestinians cry in the West Bank town of Said Sagada during the funerals of two Palestinian teenagers who were killed November 21 when an explosive device went off.

(AFP PHOTO)



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In the Name of Allah

And (as for) those who hold fast by the Book and keep up prayer, surely We do not waste the reward of the right doers.
(HOLY QORAN) (7:170)

OPINION

U.S. Evacuation of Iraqi Kurds Unjustifiable, Contravening International Law

The U.S. government has announced that it is going to evacuate 5,000 Iraqi kurdish relief workers who formerly cooperated with its forces from northern Iraq and resettle them in the United States. The announcement was made as another 8,000 Iraqi refugees were returning to their homeland escaping the harsh winter elsewhere.

There are two noteworthy aspects to the matter: the reason behind the U.S. decision, and the indifference of international community to the sufferings of the innocent Iraqi people.

It seems that Iraqis have to suffer only because the U.S. is waiting for an appropriate time to replace Saddam Hussein with a surrogate. Moreover, the U.S. decision to evacuate the Iraqi Kurds is an infringement upon Iraq's sovereignty according to all international rules and regulations, being a clear violation of the international law.

Should humanitarian assistance be offered only to the Iraqis who collaborated with Washington? That is what the U.S. officials must answer. If the answer is 'no', then why have the bulk of Iraqi Kurds been left neglected? Undoubtedly saving a small portion of the Kurdish population in Iraq is not a basic solution to the misery and plight of the Iraqi Kurds.

It is worth reminding that, after the end of the Persian Gulf war, the U.S. did not depose the Iraqi leader because it was not willing to see the Iraqi Muslims attaining power in that country. Therefore, Saddam Hussein suppressed the Muslims in southern Iraq and, in return, the U.S. spared the Iraqi dictator.

Furthermore, in order to include the Iraqi Kurdistan in its sphere of influence, the U.S. created the no-fly-zone in northern Iraq in collaboration with some other UN members and helped the Kurds to establish a semi-autonomous authority in that region.

So far, the main victims of the U.S. self-serving policies have turned to be the innocent Iraqi people, particularly the Iraqi Kurds, who have fallen prey to Washington's regional interests and objectives. Given the harsh winter, the international community should help the innocent Iraqis out of their present predicament through whatever means possible.

Congress on Imam Ali (AS) Ends Work

TEHRAN – The congress titled 'Imam Ali - the Ideal of the Basijis' ended its work here on Tuesday, after throwing light on some aspects of the model personality of the Commander of the Faithful.

At the closing session, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, Major General Hassan Firouzabadi, said, "Imam Ali (AS) had reached the peak of human perfection."

He said Imam Ali (AS) expects the Basijis to rally to the cause of God.

The 3-day congress was part of celebrations for the auspicious birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad's (S), cousin, son-in-law and divinely-designated vicegerent, who was born in the holy Ka'ba in Mecca on Rajab 13, 600 AD.

The Basij, a force of Islamic volunteers was formed on the orders of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, the late Imam Khomeini.

The Basij was inspired from *Shurtat al-Khamis*, a force of virtuous Muslims which swore allegiance to Imam Ali when he took the reins of temporal government in 35 AH (655 AD) to usher in the rule of justice and equity on the basis of the Holy Qoran and the Holy Prophet's Sunnah. *(IRNA)*

Iranian Envoy Calls For UN Reforms



UNITED NATIONS HQ., New York – The Islamic Republic of Iran's Permanent Representative to the UN, Kamal Kharrazi, speaking at the 51st General Assembly here Tuesday said that if the United Nations is to become more responsive to the rapid and fundamental developments in the international relations, it must be reformed and revitalized.

"My delegation, for these very reasons, attaches great importance to the work of the high-level working group on strengthening of the United Nations system among other working groups with the mandates of reforming different aspects of the UN system," he said.

He expressed that any effort to strengthen, revitalize or reform the UN system, should maintain and promote the basic principles of the charter, particularly the principles of equal sovereignty of all states, effective and full participation of all member states in the UN decision making process as well as transparency and democracy in its work.

"My delegation, among many others, believes that the reports of the Security Council by the General Assembly, should be informative and analytical and provide a clear picture of the council's activities to all member states," outlined Kharrazi, adding, "We attach great importance to the annual reports of the secretary general to the General Assembly." *(IRNA)*

Syrian Leading Figures Deplore German "Impudence to Islam"

DAMASCUS – The recent accusations by the German prosecutor general against Iranian leaders in the so-called Mykonos trial betrays "the hatred of global arrogance towards Islam", said Hojjatoleslam Nabil Halbavi, leading Syrian alim on Tuesday.

He told IRNA in Damascus that the German "impudence" was an indication that the enmity of global arrogance towards the Islamic Revolution was increasingly taking more public shape.

However, he added, the plots only boosted the popularity of the leaders of Iran in the Islamic world, notably Ayatollah Khamenei who "is the apple of eye for world Muslims."

Meanwhile, Wahbeh Zuheili, a professor of theology in Damascus University, said the German accusation, linking Iranian leaders to the killing of four Kurds in the Berlin's Mykonos Restaurant in 1992, had no legal bases.

He added that Germany's prosecutor had ignored most basic legal principles in the process of trial.

Stressing Ayatollah Khamenei's dignity and status, Zuheili said that the German move amounted to "making faces at Muslims all over the world." *(IRNA)*

Imam Ali's Birth Anniversary Marked in Azerbaijan

BAKU – The birth anniversary celebrations of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS) were held throughout the Azerbaijan Republic on Monday, Rajab 13.

The chief of the Board of Caucasus Ulema, Allah Shakour Pashazadeh addressed one such ceremony at the Iranian Culture House, which was, among others, also attended by the Iranian ambassador and some members of the Azeri Parliament. *(IRNA)*

Rafsanjani Congratulates New Romanian President

TEHRAN – Iran's President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here on Tuesday sent a message of congratulations to new Romanian President Emil Constantinescu.

Rafsanjani in his message expressed hope that the two countries' long-standing bilateral relations would continue to improve. *(IRNA)*

President's Message Delivered to King Hassan

PARIS – Iran's Foriegn Ministry Director General for Middle East-North African Affairs, Hojjatoleslam Seyyed Mohammad Kazem Khansari handed a written message of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to King Hassan of Morocco in a meeting in Rabat on Monday.

Khansari congratulated King Hassan on the anniversary of Morocco's National Day and called for expansion of Tehran-Rabat relations.

During the meeting the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest at regional and international levels.

King Hassan reiterated his country's interest in the expansion of brotherly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and asked Khansari to convey his warm regards to Hojjatoleslam Rafsanjani.

In another meeting in Rabat on Tuesday, Khansari exchanged views with former Moroccan Prime Minister Ezzeddine Laraki.

Laraki is to succeed Hamid al-Ghabid as the secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

In their meeting, the two sides reviewed major problems of the world of Islam and the sensitive role which OIC could play in this regard.

Referring to the ancient history and the rich Islamic culture of Iran, Laraki said the Islamic Republic through its cooperation with other Muslim states, could play a significant role in promoting the ideals of the Islamic world.

Khansari announced Iran's readiness to support the efforts of the OIC's next secretary general. *(IRNA)*

30,000 Iraqi Kurdish Refugees Leave Iran for Home

SARDASHT, West Azarbaijan -- During the past few days nearly 30,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees have left the camps near this northwestern border region to return home, it was announced here on Tuesday.

Director of the local Red Crescent Society, Qasem Hassannejad, said that the refugees, were provided relief aid including supplies of food, clothing and shelter by the Iranian authorities, during their roughly three month stay in the country.

According to Hassannejad, with the refugees gone, the border camps in Sardasht region are now almost empty.

An Iraqi Kurdish refugee, on his way back home, critisized the indifference shown by the international community during the fighting in northern Iraq, saying that the Islamic Republic of Iran was the sole country which helped the refugees.

Meanwhile, 1,500 Iraqi Kurdish refugees have left the Qamtareh Refugee Camp in Piranshahr in this northwestern province of Iran.

Some 1,600 Iraqi Kurds fleeing the fighting in northern Iraq had provided accommodation in the said camp. *(IRNA)*

Iran, UAE Relations Discussed

ABU DHABI, UAE – Iranian Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Hossein Sadeqi exchanged views with the emirates' Minister of States for Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed al-Nahyan, on the two countries' promotion of bilateral relations in a meeting here on Tuesday.

Tehran-Abu Dhabi issues of mutual interest as well as the current regional developments were among the subjects reviewed at the meeting. *(IRNA)*

Expansion of Tehran-New Delhi Relations Discussed

NEW DELHI – The relations between Iran and India and major regional developments figured during the meeting between the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, and the Indian Vice President, K.R. Narayanan, in New Delhi Tuesday.

Expressing his happiness over the state of Indo-Iranian cooperation, Nateq Nouri said that the expansion of multilateral cooperation between the countries in the region is essential for regional peace and stability.

Citing the examples of the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to defuse regional crisis, especially in Tajikistan and Afghanistan, he said that crisis-resolution is an important principle of the foreign policy of his country.

Today, Iran is happy that it has the distinction of having brought about the end to many a conflict in the region, emphasized Nateq Nouri.

He added that holding of the Regional Conference on Afghanistan in Tehran recently was an important step towards implementing peace and stability in that country.

In future, Iran will, with all seriousness, continue its efforts for the restoration of peace and normalcy in Afghanistan, he pointed out.

Nateq Nouri also emphasized the necessity of the expansion of cooperation between India and Iran.

For his part, Narayanan referred to the commonalities of the two nations of Iran and India.

Underlining the importance of the continued expansion of bilateral cooperation, the Indian vice president lauded Iran's role in maintaining peace and stability, calling it noteworthy.

He added that India appreciated peaceful efforts by Iran in the region as well as the world and hoped that Iranian efforts would motivate the Non-Aligned Movement which was necessary in the existing global political scenario.

He pointed out that India opposes outside interferences in the region and believes that the security of the region should be only preserved by the regional countries.

Nateq Nouri, who arrived in New Delhi on Monday on a five-day visit, is leading an Iranian parliamentary delegation.

Nateq Nouri, also met with Indian Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Shrikant Jena on Tuesday.

Jena said that the representatives of Indian people in Parliament are very happy with the expansion of cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries and the presence of speaker of the Iranian Parliament in India.

Jena added that the Indian Parliament is interested in the further expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

He pointed out that the Indian Parliament enjoys great power and has a very important role in the decision makings.

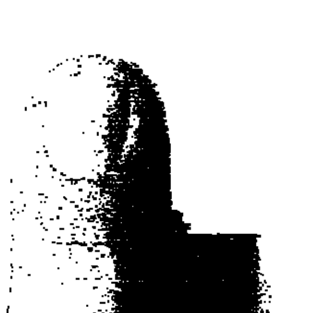
He also hoped that with India and Iran having a number of places of tourist attractions, the cooperation between the two countries in the area of tourism will expand.

Expressing his happiness over his visit to India, Nateq Nouri said that one of the important goals of Iran's foreign policy is to expand cooperation with the important countries of the region.

He added, "Iran believes that expansion of cooperation has an important role in the maintenance of peace and security in the region."

Referring to the cooperation between the two countries' parliaments, he said Iran is very happy with this and believes that it would have a very important role in the overall expansion of the bilateral ties.

Nateq Nouri said that the idea of setting up the Indo-Iranian parliamentary Friendship Group was valuable to enhance the interaction between the two parliaments and indicative of the friendship between the two nations. *(IRNA)*



ECO Day Celebrated, Ozar Confers With Velayati



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — On the eve of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Day, ECO Secretary-General Onder Ozar conferred with Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati yesterday, lauding Iran's support for an active role in the organization.

"Your viewpoints and theoretical insights are very important to the ECO," Ozar said, adding that "We always benefit from Iran's constructive proposals."

Iran's foreign minister expressed satisfaction over ECO's renewed enthusiasm on account of its new structure and underscored the significance of regional cooperation, particularly that exemplified by ECO with the approval of the revised Izmir Accord.

Today, November 28, has been declared ECO Day in honor of the latest additions to the organization's membership: the republics of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kirgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

Velayati also underlined the need for centralization of the organization and a redirection of activities to underscore new projects involving strategic goods and services in the region such as energy, transportation, cotton products, etc.

The foreign minister further hinted at opportunities opened to member countries by way of the newly opened facilities for transport of regional goods by way of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway and the activation of ECO's shipping lines.

Velayati congratulated ECO members for the designation of an ECO Day (initially marked today), which he described as a step forward in the achievement of the goals of the organization and an expression of solidarity and crystallization of the political will of ECO countries.

Seminar on Iran-Spain Relations Focuses on Iran's Growing Economy

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The first seminar on Iran-Spain relations was held in Madrid on Monday with the inaugural address of Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Research Studies Abbas Maleki.

A group of academicians, journalists and oil experts exchanged views on issues concerning the Persian Gulf, the Middle East, Central Asia and the Caucasus, Afghanistan and oil, IRNA reported.

Maleki said the Islamic Republic of Iran is doing its best to embark on wide-scale cooperation with neighboring and regional states to help establish peace and security in the region.

Referring to the U.S. hostile policies towards Iran, Maleki said that contrary to the feverish American propaganda campaign, Islamic Iran is closely cooperating with European states to help restore peace in troubled regions.

Delegate of the Spanish Oil Company, Risol, addressing the seminar lauded Iran's plans in the oil sector to strengthen its economic infrastructure, but, regretted that the West has still not understood the deep values of the Islamic Revolution.

Deputy editor-in-chief of El-Pais Michaelangel Bastanir said in the seminar that the U.S. media, without any evidence, has made it habit of repeating the allegations of America's notorious Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) that Iran supports terrorism or is after nuclear arms.

Michaelangel appreciated Iranian policy consistent with regional issues including the issue of Turkish Kurds, Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Other participants in the seminar also presented their views on Tehran-Madrid relations to explore grounds for development of cooperation between the two nations.

$127m Worth of Foodstuffs Exported

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - $127 million worth of foodstuffs have been exported during the seven months beginning March 20, said an Industries Ministry official here Wednesday.

Director General for the Foodstuffs and Pharmaceutical Industries Department of the Industries Ministry Mohammad Mehdi Parsapour further told IRNA that the amount is significant with regards to the total export of $170 million predicted for the entire year.

Allies Press U.S. to Revise Policy Toward Iran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The U.S. so-called "dual containment" of Iran and Iraq came under attack from French, German, Japanese, Russian and British experts at a London Conference last week on competing foreign interests in the Persian Gulf.

Criticism was also voiced by former American under-secretary of state, Richard Murphy, whose New York-based council on foreign relations has already started to review U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf, IRNA reported.

Opening the two-day conference Monday, he argued that Iran cannot be overlooked and that "critical dialogue offered a more promising path."

Former European Commission director for the Middle East, Eberhard Rhein, called for a more cohesive policy between the U.S. and the European Union, whose relations, he said, were not fully harmonious on the Persian Gulf.

The EU basic stance, he said, differed from Washington. Policy should be aimed at preventing any country in the region or from outside dominating the pivotal importance of Persian Gulf energy sources, he said.

Japan's ambassador to Egypt, Kunio Katakura, disputed U.S. claims that Iran has been supposedly supporting terrorism, which has been used to demonize Iran with Iraq. Tokyo, together with France and Germany, keep requesting evidence, he said.

He also criticized the extraterritoriality of U.S. sanctions against Iran as "inadmissible," suggesting that Washington was more concerned about its own interests such as selling arms and protecting American major oil companies in Arab states.

The conference, organized by the Royal Institute of International Affairs, was to explore the motives behind U.S.

Policy in the Persian Gulf, its differences with its allies and the shift in business patterns caused by U.S. sanctions.

It comes as the council on foreign relations is expected to report its policy review findings by March, while Washington's Nixon Center for Peace and Freedom is understood to be halfway through its re-evaluation of Iran policy.

French author and former ambassador, Eric Rouleau, told the conference that there was even an on-going debate within the Clinton administration which may lead to change of orientation.

"Dual containment" was not just a failure but was a "dangerous policy," he said, asking why the American did not practice its traditional diplomacy exercised elsewhere in the world.

Rouleau added that the benefits of normalizing the Persian Gulf area would probably lead to the departure of most if not all U.S. troops and to a sharp reduction in arms sales to the region.

Michael Sturmer of Germany's "Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik" also criticized U.S. policy for having no element of detente and warned that the U.S. military presence was provocative to the rise of Islam.

With regard to Washington resorting to a secondary boycott in pursuit of its containment policy, he said that Iran had opened up cracks itself in the sanctions regime.

In a speech full of irony, Alexei Vassiliev of the Russian Academy of Sciences, chided the U.S. in its hypocritical claim that its policy was guided by "high moral principles."

Unlike Washington, good relations with Iran was Russia's "number one priority in the region,'" he said, citing that Tehran and Moscow found similarly close positions on many issues, including solving the legal status of the Caspian Sea.

The advisor to the Russian Foreign Ministry also praised Iran for acting as an honest broker in the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict and its general policy towards Central Asia.

In contrast, Edward Mortimer of the *Financial Times* described British policies very close to the U.S., more than any other ally, but said that it did not mean London was happy and disagreed on the principal of extraterritorial sanctions.

He said there were policy differences over the relations with Iran with the UK supporting the EU 'critical dialogue,' but believed overally the British government was nearer to Washington than to Europe's position.

In defense of U.S. policy, Patrick Clawson from Washington's Institute for National Strategic Studies, said the allies had every right to disagree with American policy but argued it was the U.S. which bore the brunt of Persian Gulf security.

But he accepted that the biggest U.S. concern was Saudi Arabia and succession to the throne and said if the Persian Gulf monarchies adopted more distant policies from Washington, then the "enforcement of Pax Americana" would be quite different.

The general consensus of the conference was that U.S. policy towards Iran was likely to be more finely tuned in Clinton's second term but that changes would not be easy and were likely to be drawn out.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Wednesday, November 27, 1996.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates BUY	Floating Rates SELL	Export Rates BUY	Export Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,417	1,426	2,433	2,445
Austria	schilling	163	164	280	281
Belgium	(100)francs	5,568	5,600	9,559	9,607
Canada	dollar	1,302	1,310	2,235	2,246
Denmark	krone	299	301	513	516
France	franc	337	339	579	582
Germany	mark	1,145	1,152	1,966	1,976
Holland	guilder	1,020	1,026	1,751	1,759
Italy	(100)liras	115	116	198	199
Japan	(100)yen	1,554	1,563	2,668	2,681
Swiss	franc	262	264	451	452
UAE	dirham	476	479	818	820
UK	pound	2,917	2,933	5,007	5,032
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015



Religious Theme, Religious Atmosphere in the Works of Sheikhi

Ali Mohammad Sheikhi
Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The art of painting has come to us through different changes. Iranian painting specially traditional miniature, and recently teahouse painting have attracted the attention of the public and experts in the field.

Ali Mohammad Sheikhi, born in 1954, is a prominent painter who has long worked in the field. His works mostly enjoy religious themes within a religious atmosphere. He has received his BA in visual arts in painting from the Faculty of Arts. Since then he has served in many governmental posts : the principal of Ayatollah Taleqani School of Art for five years, teacher of art in the Faculty of Islamic Republic for eight years, in Azad University for a year, Islamic Propagation Organization's School of Arts, and head of Shohada Museum for a year. He has also cooperated with *Shahed* and *Zan-e Rooz* magazines as designer and painter.

Since 1986 he is cooperating with the Arts Bureau of the Islamic Propagation Organization as painter and stage designer.

He was also the stage designer for the International Congress on Imam Khomeini and the Culture of Ashura.

The daily *Tehran Times* made an interview with him to make dear readers familiar with his works and ideas.

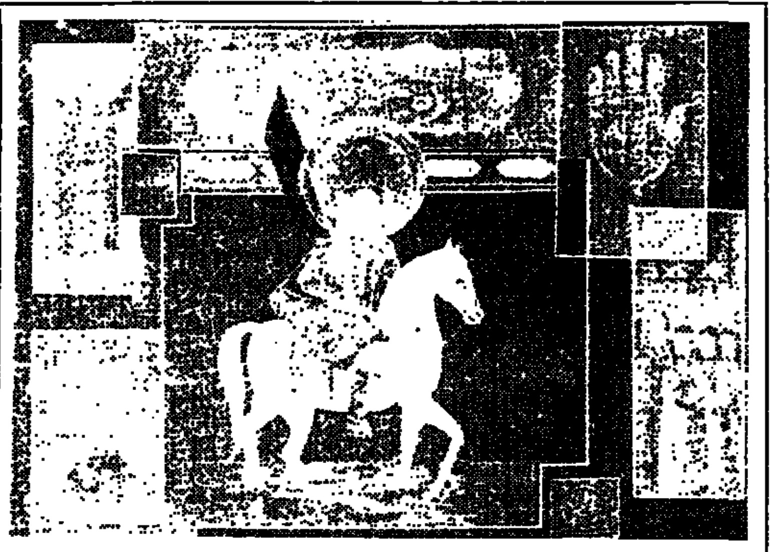
Q: What painting exhibitions have you participated in so far?

A: I have taken part in some joint exhibitions such as Klaneh Sourch Exhibition for three times, eight times in Bahman *Farhangsara* (Cultural Center), Shohada Museum for three times, and once in the Museum on War (Chamran). I've been active in procuring posters, brochures; designing and painting books' covers for several exhibitions.



Q: What prizes have you received so far?

A: The most important ones are: Receiving Certificate of Merit and Imam Khomeini's handwriting as well as the gold medal in 1988 on the occasion of sacred defense from Holy Defense Art and Literature Complex; receiving Certificate of Merit and Grand Leader Ayatollah Khamenei's handwriting as well as a gold medal in 1989 from the said complex; receiving Certificate of Merit and a golden coin as the selected painter in an exhibition held on the occasion of Hazrat Fatima's birth anniversary in Bahman *Farhangsara;* receiving Certificate of Merit from an exhibition on prayer from Bahman *Farhangsara* in 1996; and receiving Certificate of Merit on the occasion of the War Week from Bahman *Farhangsara.*



Q: What style do you follow in your works?

A: Painting is certainly a medium for manifesting one's ideas and feelings. Meanwhile, to understand what aesthetics is , any individual artist follows his exclusive method. I am not an exception either. I picked up a style with a sort of religious atmosphere which categorically presents honesty in its real sense and with which the public can communicate wholeheartedly. The religious style, however, covers almost all styles: romanticism, naturalism, surrealism, and expressionism which is seen in Iranian teahouses and I'd like to revive it.

Q: Why do you favor religious atmosphere for your works?

A: Since my father was a poet and a eulogist (*maddah*) of Ahl ul-Bait (the infallible household of the Prophet (S)). I was eager from the early years of childhood to be in such an atmosphere. That was the reason why I picked up my painting brush to eulogize Ahl ul-Bait this way. Consequently, I started working at art school and tried various methods to imply religion. Meanwhile, I found the pictures and colors in the mosques and *takaya* (religious sites) very interesting. Those pictures greatly impressed me. Since then I have always tried to make use of them in my paintings.

Q: Which subjects are focus of your attention most?

A: Something is never ignored in my works and that is the belief, broad-mindedness and spirit of liberty of the master of martyrs Imam Hussein. Needless to say, the belief in his righteousness was the infrastructure of our Islamic Revolution for which our combatants fought bravely against the enemy during eight years of sacred defense.

Q: Why war has influenced your works so greatly?

A: The imposed war was a struggle of light and darkness. We had learned as long as history can say from Imam Hussein to fight for light. It is a fight which ends in victory from both ends — triumph or martyrdom. Now in the post-war era the artists have to shoulder the big responsibility of bringing Basijis self-sacrifice into light. There are still scenes of war left unsaid which should be unveiled.

For my part, I have always tried to establish a relation between Ashura and the sacred defense frontiers in my works.

Q: How do you advise the young painters?

A: I'd very much like to tell them to set themselves free from anything mundane in their search so it is purely granted to God. We all have a permanent promise to God that enhances search for right and excellence, going after knowledge, and innovation in the creation of artistic works. These factors pave well the way for the artist to see things better, and his heart grows fonder for the thanksgiving of the Almighty God.



Q: What status does the Iranian painting hold among foreign works of art?

A: After the Islamic Revolution there has been a great change in the works of painters. Now you can feel an invisible intelligent idea beyond the visible face of the work. Of course, we cannot ignore the influence of war on the works of art.

It goes without saying that the masterpieces of Iranian painters have enjoyed their right status among the foreign ones. They have been highly appreciated by non-Iranian artists.







Supplication of Kumayl

4

I have wronged myself,
I have been audacious in my ignorance and
I have depended upon
Your constant remembrance of me and
Your favor toward me.
O Allah, O my Protector!
How many ugly things You have concealed!
How many tribulations You have warded off!
How many stumbles You have removed!
How many ordeals You have averted!
And how much beautiful praise,
for which I was unworthy,
You have spread about me.
O Allah, my tribulation is tremendous,
my bad state is excessive,
my acts are inadequate,
my fetters have tied me down,
my high hopes have held meback from my gain
and this world with its delusions,
my own soul with its offenses and
my dilly-dallying have deceived me.
O my Lord! So I ask You by Your Might
not to let my evil deeds and acts
veil my supplication from You; not to

10th Congress on Nahj-ul-Balagheh Held

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN —The 10th Congress on Nahj ul-Balagheh entitled 'Ali (AS): Mysticism, Justice' was held Nov. 25, concurrent with the blessed birth anniversary of Imam Ali (AS) here in Hosseiniyeh Ershad.

According to a fax received by the daily the congress was attended by some Islamic thinkers, scholars and Ulema along with religious personalities and students.

The congress was inaugurated by Hojjatoleslam Deenparvar, head of Nahj ul-Balagheh Foundation, who elaborated on the objectives behind holding the congress.

Also Allameh Mohammad Taqi Ja'fari, a prominent Islamic thinker talked about the life and personality of Hazrat Ali (AS).

Ayatollah Khaz'ali, another lecturer of the congress, discoursed on Nahj ul-Balagheh and its unique values.

Furthermore, during the congress a round table on 'The Relation of Mysticism and Justice From the Viewpoint of Hazrat Ali (AS),' was attended by Hojjatoleslam Taskhiri, Seyed Alavi, Mr. Davani and Dr. Ja'fari.

The congress concluded giving rewards for the selected writers and winners of the competitions offered by the foundation.

Nov. 21 Proclaimed as World TV Day

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Welcoming the commitment of the United Nations to enhance its links with the media, broadcasters agreed to support the proclamation of World Television Day, to be observed on Nov. 21.

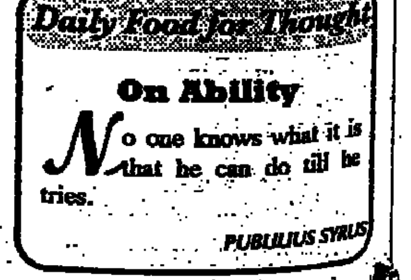
According to a fax from United Nations Information Center in Tehran, based on a draft, introduced at the conclusion of the first United Nations World Television Forum in New York, the proposed World Television Day would be marked by global exchange of television programs focusing on such issues as peace and security, economic and social development and the enhancement of cultural exchange.

The declaration would call for the UN World Television Forum to become an annual event.

The draft calls on the UN, through its Department of Public Information (DPI) to act as catalyst among communicators, strengthening its partnerships with key media groups; to ensure an out reach by the UN family and reinforcing its links to civil society.

In his closing remarks, the assistant secretary-general for Public Information and chairman of the forum, Samir Sanbar, stressed the importance of the forum as the world entered the twenty-first century.

He expressed hope that regular meetings of television broadcasters would be held and that future forums would include the participation of broadcasting unions.



Daily Food for Thought

On Ability

No one knows what it is that he can do till he tries.

PUBLILIUS SYRUS



FIFA World Indoor Soccer Championship

First Round

Group A

Team	w	l	t	gf	ga	pts
Ukraine	1	0	0	11	2	3
Spain	1	0	0	7	2	3
Egypt	0	1	0	2	7	0
Australia	0	1	0	2	11	0

Sunday, Nov. 24 at Murcia, Spain
Spain 7, Egypt 2 Ukraine 11, Australia 2
Tuesday, Nov. 26 at Murcia, Spain
Egypt vs. Australia, 1700 GMT Ukraine vs. Spain, 1900 GMT
Thursday, Nov. 28 at Murcia, Spain
Egypt vs. Ukraine, 1700 GMT Australia vs. Spain, 1900 GMT

Group B

Team	w	l	t	gf	ga	pts
Netherlands	1	0	0	3	1	3
Argentina	1	0	0	2	1	3
China	0	1	0	1	2	0
Russia	0	1	0	1	3	0

Monday, Nov. 25 at Murcia, Spain
Argentina 2, China 1 Netherlands 3, Russia 1
Wednesday, Nov. 27
At Murcia, Spain
Argentina vs. Russia, 1700 GMT Netherlands vs. China, 1900 GMT
Thursday, Nov. 28 at Murcia, Spain
Netherlands vs. Argentina, 0900 GMT Russia vs. China, 1100 GMT

Group C

Team	w	l	t	gf	ga	pts
Italy	1	0	0	10	1	3
Uruguay	1	0	0	1	0	3
United States	0	1	0	0	1	0
Malaysia	0	1	0	1	10	0

Sunday, Nov. 24 at Segovia, Spain
Uruguay 1, United States 0 Italy 10, Malaysia 1
Tuesday, Nov. 26 at Segovia, Spain
Italy vs. United States, 1700 GMT Uruguay vs. Malaysia, 1900 GMT
Thursday, Nov. 28 at Segovia, Spain
Uruguay vs. Italy, 0900 GMT United States vs. Malaysia, 1100 GMT

Group D

Team	w	l	t	gf	ga	pts
Iran	1	0	0	7	1	3
Brazil	1	0	0	5	2	3
Belgium	0	1	0	2	5	0
Cuba	0	1	0	1	7	0

Monday, Nov. 25 at Segovia, Spain
Iran 7, Cuba 1 Brazil 5, Belgium 2
Wednesday, Nov. 27 at Segovia, Spain
Belgium vs. Iran, 1700 GMT Cuba vs. Brazil, 1900 GMT
Thursday, Nov. 28 at Segovia, Spain
Brazil vs. Iran, 1700 GMT Belgium vs. Cuba, 1900 GMT

Second Round

Group E

Team	w	l	t	gf	ga	pts
Group A winner	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group B 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group C winner	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group D 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sunday, Dec. 1 at Castellon, Spain
Group C winner vs. Group D second place, 0900 GMT Group A winner vs. Group B second place, 1100 GMT
Monday, Dec. 2 at Castellon, Spain
Group B second place vs. Group C winner, 1900 GMT Group D second place vs. Group A winner, 2100 GMT
Wednesday, Dec. 4 at Castellon, Spain
Group B second place vs. Group D second place, 1700 GMT Group A winner vs. Group C winner, 1900 GMT

Group F

Team	w	l	t	gf	ga	pts
Group B winner	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group A 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group D winner	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group C 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0

Saturday, Nov. 30 at Castellon, Spain
Group B winner vs. Group A second place, 1700 GMT Group D winner vs. Group C second place, 1900 GMT
Sunday, Dec. 1 at Castellon, Spain
Group C second place vs. Group B winner, 1700 GMT Group A second place vs. Group D winner, 1900 GMT
Tuesday, Dec. 3 at Castellon, Spain
Group A second place vs. Group C second place, 1700 GMT Group B winner vs. Group D winner, 1900 GMT

Semifinals
Friday, Dec. 6 at Barcelona, Spain
Group F winner vs. Group E second place, 1600 GMT Group E winner vs. Group F second place, 1800 GMT

Third Place
Sunday, Dec. 8 at Barcelona, Spain
Semifinal losers, 0930 GMT

Championship
Sunday, Dec. 8 at Barcelona, Spain
Semifinal winners, noon GMT. (AP)



TOKYO, Japan (Nov. 26): River Plate forward Enzo Francescoli (C) battles for a ball with Juventus midfielder Didier Deschamps (L) during the 17th Toyota European/South American Cup in Tokyo's national stadium. European champion Juventus of Italy beat South American champion River Plate by 1-0.

(AFP PHOTO)

Sports Summary

Tehran Times Service

FOOTBALL

LONDON: Marcus Gayle scored the only goal as Wimbledon knocked out the league cup holders Aston Villa 1-0 on Tuesday, to qualify for the last eight — extending their unbeaten league cup and run to 16 matches.

First division Oxford grabbed a last minute equalizer against premiership side Southampton, to make it 1-1, while Ipswich beat Gillingham 1-0, in the night's other tie.

Gayle scored right on the stroke of half time, squeezing the ball home from a tight angle to secure their place in the last eight.

LISBON: Jorge Costa the captain of FC Porto is to lodge an official complaint with the Portuguese police for assault against Liberia's FIFA footballer of the year George Weah it was revealed here on Tuesday.

Castro Neves, Costa's lawyer, also confirmed that they had sent medical reports to UEFA, European football's governing body, regarding the broken nose he suffered after Weah allegedly headbutted him after their champions league game last Wednesday.

UEFA have said that a decision concerning possible disciplinary sanctions against FIFA's recently appointed 'fair play' holder, would be announced later this week.

Weah, if found guilty, could face suspension from European football for several months.

CRICKET

BRISBANE, Australia: Makeshift left-arm wrist spinner Michael Bevan, who struggled throughout the match in his principal role as a middle order batsman, was Australia's unlikely hero as the West Indies slid to a 123-run test defeat here Tuesday.

He claimed the crucial wickets of Sherwin Campbell, first innings century-maker Carl Hooper and pace bowler Ian Bishop.

Wrist spinner Shane Warne took two wickets at a cost of 92 runs in his first test appearance since undergoing surgery on the ring finger of his bowling hand in May.

Australia wicketkeeper Ian Healy was named man-of-the-match for his unbeaten 161 in Australia's first innings of 479.

"Heals had a great game. He showed commitment, and ability and we've started calling him the New Don Bradman he batted so well.

"It was a tough game of test cricket and the boys hung in really well to win it," Taylor added.

RUGBY UNION

CARDIFF: Jonathan Davies is back in Wales' famous number 10 jersey eight years after winning his last cap.

The former Rugby League star has ousted record Welsh points scorer Neil Jenkins for Sunday's test against Australia at Cardiff.

Another ex-league professional, Cardiff prop David Young, also returns seven years after quitting union.

Young replaces Neath captain John Davies, while the third change from the side which beat Italy in Rome last month sees former skipper Ieuan Evans return after injury to replace Cardiff's Simon Hill.

LYON, France: The South African Rugby Union Tourists gained a morale boosting win ahead of Saturday's first test with France here on Tuesday beating the French South East side 36-20 — an improvement on their 30-22 defeat by the French Barbarians on Saturday.

Although the provincial side held the South African second string side to a lead of just 7-3 at half time, the Tourists eased away with two tries in the first 15 minutes of the second half from full internationals Hannis Strydom and fullback Justin Swart.

The South Africans ran in five tries as they played a more expansive game than their senior side had done on Saturday.

LONDON: Rob Andrew and Tony Underwood — both out of the England scene — have been called up by the Barbarians to face Australia at Twickenham on December 7.

The Newcastle duo have been selected along with their clubmates Nick Popplewell and Tim Stimpson in a side which contains seven players from English league two sides.

LIMERICK, Ireland: A brace of tries from David Campese on his farewell appearance in Ireland were the highlight of a 55-19 thrashing by the Wallaby Tourists over Irish provincial side Munster here on Tuesday.

Munster, a pale shadow of the side that scored an extraordinary win over the all blacks in 1978, were never in the hunt against the second string Australian side and only fly half Kilian Keane came out of the game with any credit, scoring 16 of their points.

TENNIS

PARIS: France's greatest weapon in the Davis Cup final against Sweden beginning on Friday November 29 at Malmo will not even be swinging a racquet.

Former French number one Yannick Noah, has managed to propel his squad into the finals by uniting four players of very different, and occasionally difficult personalities, in his new role as Davis Cup captain.

His secret, he says, is to instill a positive attitude among his recruits.

"When I speak to one of the players, I treat him like he was one of my own children," said the dreadlocked Noah.

"It comes from the heart, and when advice comes through friendship, it works."

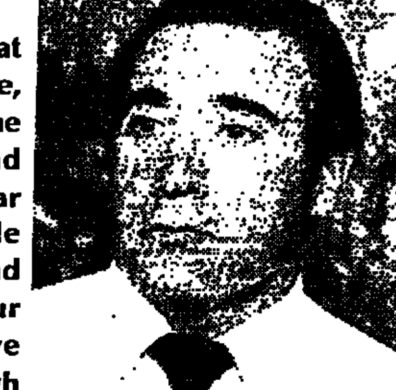
Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master

By Ja'far Qasempour Jahangir

Skills of Kung Fu

What Is Kung Fu?

(Part 16)



Although this method at first seems a little strange, but you can easily become a master in this field and what you need is regular practice. Firstly exhale through your mouth, and then just through your nostrils unless you've caught cold or have a high fever. The third point is freshen your breath with your lungs, and exhale with your nose allowing the air to circulate slower which is helpful for your body.

Here are some points for better outcome:

1. Don't practice more than usual at the first step. Running 30 to 40 times around the gymnasium is enough for the beginners. Keep your back straight and your body, albeit difficult, loose.

2. Stop practicing when you feel pain in your legs or back. Don't let them bear pressure to finish running around the gym. If you keep your body tight, there will be no improvement.

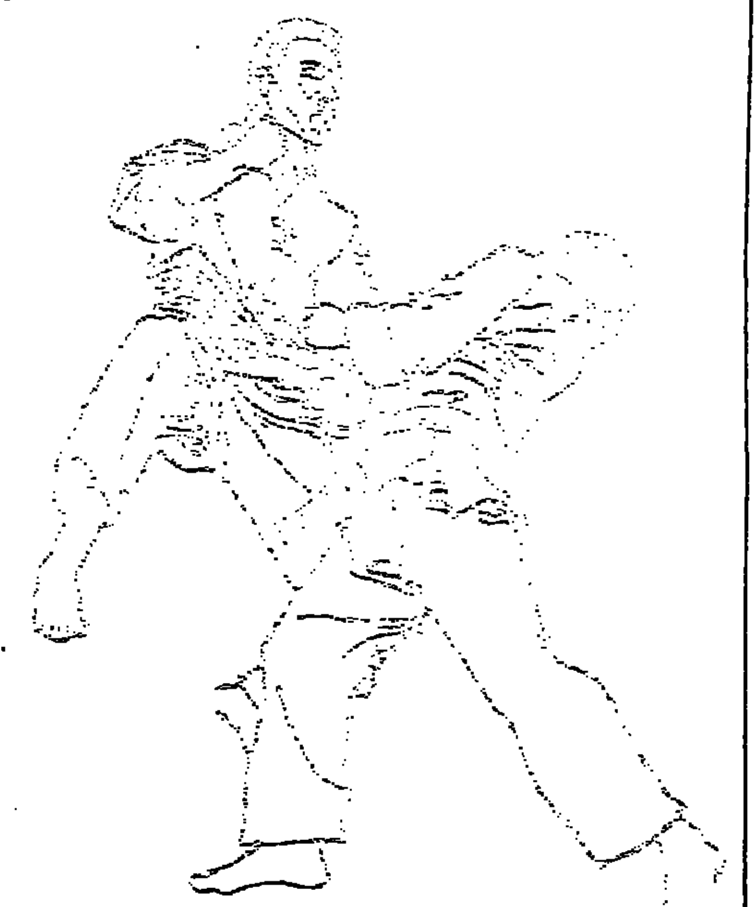
3. Practice in a place free of dust and noise.

4. Concentrate your thoughts just on Tan-Teen.

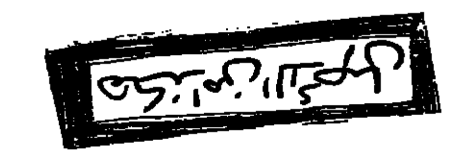
5. Keep your tongue near your palate.

6. Never fasten your belt tightly, since it limits your diaphragm's function while practicing.

Breathing according to Tan-Teen's principles has a relieving effect on your nervous system. And Chee-Eye's development can be materialized just with this method of respiration. The majority of nervous people can replace anodynes with Tan-Teen's breathing



daily practice and they get into habit of it very soon. Of course, it is difficult to establish connection between Chee-Eye and respiration. Chee-Eye like breathing and blood circulates throughout the body. Incessant practice of Tan-Teen breathing familiarizes the trainee with his unidentified powers and energies. Certainly, the improvement will appear gradually through regular practice and efforts. Also, the physical reactions will come about when you have a loose body and an undisturbed mind during the practice.



هكذا من الأصل

BETHLEHEM, West Bank,: (Nov. 26) Ukranian President Leonid Kuchma shakes hands with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Bethlehem. Kuchma is in Israel and the West Bank on an official visit and to sign a series of cooperation agreements.

(AFP PHOTO)

Bahrain Will Boycott Persian Gulf Summit in Qatar

MANAMA -- Bahrain said Wednesday it would boycott a Persian Gulf Arab summit in Qatar next month amid a border dispute between the two countries and Doha's support for Manama's political opposition.

Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad ibn Mubarak al-Khalifa, said his country will stay away from the summit because "of several non-brotherly and non-amicable activities" Qatar has undertaken against Bahrain.

Bahrain and Qatar are involved in a dispute over the Hawar islands in the Persian Gulf.

Doha unilaterally filed a claim with the International Court of Justice at the Hague. Bahrain, which questioned the court's competence, on September 28 submitted its own arguments to the court.

In October, Sheikh Mohammad Accused Qatar of supporting Bahrain's opposition which has led two years of anti-government unrest to push its demand for a restoration of Parliament.

He accused Qatar of dealing with Bahrain's enemies by allowing them to appear on Qatari television to attack the government in Manama.

The five other members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council — Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman — are to attend the summit on December 7. *(AFP)*

(Contd from Pg. 1)

159...

In addition, there were to be 32 customs agents to supervise the arrival of humanitarian imports, and 14 officials charged with monitoring Iraqi oil exports.

The deal allows Iraq to export two billion dollars worth of oil every six months to buy food and medicine, as well as defray UN costs and contribute to reparations stemming from Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The exports — Iraq's first to international oil markets in six years — would amount to about two billion dollars.

Iraq had announced Monday that it agreed completely to UN terms for monitoring the deal, which it had signed on May 20.

The United States, Britain, the Arab League and Kuwait — whose occupation by Iraq in 1990 led to the imposition of UN sanctions -- hailed Iraq's move as a major step toward relieving the suffering of its people.

Meanwhile, the United States has agreed to a method for setting a price on the oil, diplomats said.

Diplomats also said that Lloyds of London would control the delivery of humanitarian aid to Iraq and the Dutch company Saybolt would supervise the oil shipments.

(AFP)

Turkish Army Kills 52 Kurds

DIYARBAKIR Turkey — Turkish troops killed 52 separatist Kurds and lost seven members in recent fighting, government officials said on Wednesday.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

PETROL...

"They include attacks with petrol bombs, grenades and other explosives, vandalism, arson, stealing and killing of cattle, verbal and telephone threats," said Ivanko.

The latest incident was the burning down of several unoccupied houses belonging to Muslims last Monday, he added.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported in May that more more than 100 Muslims had been terrorized into abandoning their homes in Teslic, which is in Bosnia's Serb-held entity, Republika Srpska.

Ivanko said the UN International Police task force has now stepped up patrols in the area but wants more cooperation from Serb police.

"Local police have the ability to stop the harassment of the Muslims since the perpetrators are well known in the area. The situation we have when minorities are pressured to leave the Republika Srpska should not be allowed to continue," he said.

Meanwhile, NATO peacekeepers seized anti-tank missiles and machine guns from two Serb police stations in northern Bosnia in a clampdown on unauthorized arms, a NATO official said Wednesday.

The arms and ammunition were taken from police stations in Laktasi and nearby Banja Luka, the largest Serb-run town in Bosnia. NATO spokesman major Brett Boudreau said.

More than 200 rifles, 125 boxes of small arms ammunition and 45 pistols were seized in Latasi while two anti-tank missiles together with 14 light machine guns, some rifles, and hand grenades were taken out of the Banja Luka station, Boudreau said.

Speaking of the Laktasi weapons Haul Boudreau said: "It was more akin to a weapons cantonment site than an everyday police station."

The NATO-led peacekeeping force IFOR (Implementation Force) strictly enforces arms restrictions throughout Bosnia that cover both the military and the police.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

IRAN...

The intervention of foreign powers will only aggravates the situation in that country, he added.

The Indian prime minister said that India wants peace to be established in Kashmir and that India opposes to the American intervention in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Nateq Nouri said at a press conference in New Delhi yesterday that India and Iran have agreed to make joint efforts to bring various factions in Afghanistan together and help them settle the ongoing crisis there through negotiations.

According to IRNA, Nouri said that whatever was happening in Afghanistan was not in the interests of Iran, India and any other country of the region.

Appreciating India's interests in the restoration of peace and normalcy in Afghanistan, Nouri pointed out that India participated actively at the level of the cabinet minister in the recently held Tehran Conference on Afghanistan.

Describing his visit to India as fruitful, Nouri pointed to separate agreements signed on promotion of bilateral trade, the setting up of a fertilizer joint venture in Qeshm in Iran and the setting up of a joint business council between the two countries during his stay.

He in particular reffered to the trilateral agreement signed by India, Iran and Turkmenistan on transportation of goods between India and Central Asian republics via Iran early this year and said that many more such agreements were in the offing.

Asked about Iran's stand on the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf region particularly in view of the recent U.S. attacks against Iraq, the Iranian Majlis speaker said, Iran feels that crises and tension in the Persian Gulf region are the handiwork of the U.S. to justify its presence in the region.

Foreign forces are themselves the source of instability and tension in the Persian Gulf region. Iran wants that Perisan Gulf countries themselves resolve all the problems in the region and take up collectively the task of regional security and peace, added Nouri.

On the U.S. trade sanctions on Iran, Libya and Cuba, Nouri said that the worldwide condemnation of the U.S. move is indicative of how illogical, irrational and absurd it is.

U.S. is under the imprression that it can legislate for the whole world. See, for the sake of an irrational move to isloate Iran, it is itself getting isolated and Iran keeps enjoying good political and economic relations with the community of nations as usual, said Nouri.

On the Kashmir issue, Nouri said that Iran felt that the sooner the Kashmir problem was settled the better, urging India and Pakistan to resolve the issue through negotiations and in the best interests of the people of Kashmir.

He also said that since Iran enjoyed good relations with both India and Pakistan, the two countrties could make the best use of this by asking Iran to medaite between them on the Kashmir issue.

Nouri, who arrived in New Delhi on Monday on a five-day visit, is leading an Iranian parliamentary delegation. During his stay in New Delhi, he met a host of Indian leaders and held extensive talks with them on a number of issues of bilateral and regional importance.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

OPEC...

Minister Ammar Makhloufi said overnight that Iraq's expected early limited re-entry into the world oil market after a six-year United Nations embargo would cause "no problems" for the 11-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

His Indonesian colleague Ida Bagus Sudjana said he felt current prices were "sustainable" in 1997, and OPEC's current president, United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Rakkad bin Salem bin Rakkad, agreed.

Questioned as the ministers held a series of early morning private talks in Vienna hotels, Bin Rakkad said continued strong demand "will keep crude in a 20 to 25 dollars a barrel range."

The regular half-yearly OPEC conference, was due to open around 3:00 pm (1400 GMT) at the organization's Vienna headquarters, was widely expected to agree on a roll-over of the current overall OPEC production limit.

"For now," said Iran's veteran Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh, "it may be the best way (solution) to keep the current ceiling until the next meeting" of OPEC ministers, which would normally take place some time next June.

Questioned separately, Bin Rakkad said OPEC's 1997 production level was "not a problem."

"Everybody seems to be happy with the present target," he said, referring to the 25.033 million barrels a day (mbd) ceiling set by this year's opec summer meeting.

The new ceiling was agreed barely three weeks after the May 20 UN-Iraq oil-for-food deal allowing limited Iraqi crude sales to finance food and medicine purchases intended to ease the plight of Iraq's sanctions-starved population.

The 25.03 mbd ceiling made room for a 0.8 mbd "export allowance" for Iraq which thus secured an overall notional quota of 1.2 mbd, while its OPEC partners agreed to freeze their own quotas under the previous 24.52 mbd ceiling adopted at the end of 1993.

"The additional Iraqi barrels will not constitute any problem," an oil industry observer said Wednesday. "The Iraqi problem, if there ever was one, was resolved by last June's decision as far as OPEC is concerned."

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

GREATER...

forces to thwart the enemies' cultural plots.

Referring to Western cultural assault as the most destructive force endangering the Islamic Revolution, he called on all Islamic nations and governments to be vigilant vis-a-vis the conspiracies hatched by enemies, particularly their culture, which they seriously disseminate and which threatens to destroy the entire Islamic world.

Speaking at an exclusive interview with the *Tehran Times*, Hadji Akhoondi added that the main objective of arrogant powers and expansionists is to portray a negative picture of Islamic culture and values, leaving no stone unturned in enticing the young generation into accepting their obscene cultural patterns.

He further recalled that after the end of the Iraqi-imposed war, the enemies spared no effort in attacking the genuine Islamic culture, stressing the need for a well-programmed response to diffuse the enemies' destructive plots.

He underlined that the young generation are the main targets of the cultural assault and that they should be well-versed in Islamic precepts and should be accorded genuine Islamic examples.

He said that cultural organizations as well as the universities shoulder a heavy responsibility in this respect.

Hadji Akhoondi reiterated that in spite of the economic and cultural problems heaped on the country by the enemies of Islam after the victory of the Islamic Revolution the cultural field has seen remarkable growth in recent years.

"We have been so far successful in the path of development, but we should be aware that the enemies will not calm down; they use every available means to attack Islam," he said.

In conclusion he called for positive cultural relations among countries that share our beliefs and convictions, saying by such means nations will be able to share their experiences in the cultural fields.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

FRANCE...

The United States has maintained over the past months that Jewish settlements are a "complicating factor" in the Middle East peace process but refrained from directly criticizing Netanyahu for his drive to develop them.

Netanyahu's rightwing government in June lifted a freeze on settlement expansion imposed by the previous government and has since approved plans for building thousands of homes in the West Bank.

The Arabs must force Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to abandon his hardline policies for the sake of the peace process, a Syrian official said.

Faez al-Saegh, head of the official news agency SANA, charged in a newspaper commentary that Netanyahu was pursuing "extremist policies aimed at killing off the peace process."

The Arabs should "force him to put an end to his actions which threaten the region and the world," Sayegh wrote in the daily *Ath-Thawra*.

"To do that, the Arabs are called upon today to reactivate their joint actions and to take decisions on the basis of what was agreed at the Cairo Summit," he said.

The summit in June warned Israel that Arab countries could reconsider their moves toward normalization with the Zionsit state because of its refusal to accept the principle of trading occupied lands in return for peace.

Syria's peace negotiations with Israel have been stalled since February and Netanyahu refuses to hand over the Golan Heights which his country seized from Damascus in the 1967 Middle East war.

Cairo newspapers also called on the Egyptian government to freeze the normalization with Israel over its settlement policies in the Palestinian territories.

In 1979, Egypt became the first Arab country to make peace with Israel.

(AFP)

WEATHER

The Islamic Republic of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 17°C, Min. temp. 8°C

Partly cloudy with dust

Warmest Point:
Minab 32°C

Coldest Point:
Firoozkouh -7°C

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max °C	Cities	Max °C
Riyadh	–	Vienna	–
Istanbul	18	Moscow	–
Rome	–	Madrid	16
Athens	–	Abu Dhabi	27
London	6	Karachi	28
Paris	4	New Delhi	21
Frankfurt	2	Kuwait	23

U.S. Inhibiting Security Coopertion in Persian Gulf

LONDON – The role occupied by the U.S. both in the demonology of Iranian politics and in interfering militarily to create an artificial balance of power in the Persian Gulf is inhibiting regional security cooperation.

Washington's involvement in maintaining Saudi security causes a dilemma in the normalization of ties between Riyadh and Tehran that is heightened by the disparate U.S. relations with the two countries, according to a new book here.

The author of Iran-Saudi Arabian relations and regional order, Shahram Chubin and Charles Tripp, are not optimistic about the likelihood of a rapprochement or the creation of some form of regional security.

But both believe that the state of affairs is not immutable and that "limited agreements should not be difficult to reach, if they were sought as part of a regional package that seems to take seriously the security needs of all states."

The danger feared was that the U.S. might seek to freeze the current Pax Americana order, making the construction of a durable system more difficult.

The book suggested that first challenge presented to Saudi Arabia was to examine the main issues that arise in its bilateral relations with Iran and to "find grounds for compromise rather than confrontation."

The second was in Saudi's handling of its relationship with the U.S. and make an effort to "dissociate this special security relationship from some areas of possible agreement with Iran."

But against the current background of U.S. adherence to the strategy of 'dual containment,' the authors said that it would be difficult for Riyadh to persuade Tehran that any project under the U.S. security umbrella was not working against Iran's interests.

The conclusion drawn was that the future of Saudi-Iranian relations and of a regional security system must depend on the state of U.S.-Iranian relations, which in turn would be affected by domestic politics in both countries.

Chubin, from the Geneva Center for Security Policy, and Tripp, of London University, thought it was unlikely in the present atmosphere that the U.S. would "see beyond its peculiarly intimate animosity towards Iran to encourage rather than delay Saudi-Iranian dialog and participate in its terms and aims."

Were Washington to do so, they said that it might see the "benefits that would accrue in the short-term from the formation of a regional forum" and suggested that the Madrid conference may provide a model of sorts.

Their warning was that if the current trend in U.S.-Iranian relations continues, Saudi-Iranian relations were bound to suffer, exacerbating many potential areas of bilateral conflict and reinforcing those who see no reason for dialog.

This in turn would make any prospect of regional security cooperation "more remote than ever," the book concluded. (IRNA)

Iranian Family Shrinks by Half in Last Decade

PARIS – The size of the average Iranian family has shrunk considerably in the last decade thanks to a government-sponsored family planning campaign, according to a study published Monday in Paris.

The study by the National Institute of Demographic Studies said that Iranian women on average have 3.5 children nowadays compared with an average of seven in 1986.

It partly attributed the decrease to a religious decree, or *Fatwa*, issued by late Imam Khomeini in 1980 allowing the use of contraceptives as long as they did not "alter human organs" and as long as the woman had her husband's approval.

The government at the time set up health centers that distributed or sold contraceptives at reasonable prices.

A further campaign to stem the birth rate was launched following the Iraqi-imposed war with the result that 1.3 million births were registered in 1993 compared with 2.2 million in 1986. (AFP)

Rouhani: Security Attainable Through Neighborliness Not Arms

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – The Majlis Vice-Speaker Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday condoled with the deputies on the death anniversary of Hazrat Zaynab (SA), the granddaughter of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S).

Referring to the efforts and sacrifices of the Iranian Muslim women during the Islamic Revolution, the imposed war and construction era, he underlined that the Iranian women are following the example set by social and political aspects of the lives of Hazrat Zaynab (SA) and her noble and impeccable mother, Hazrat Fatimah (SA).

Further, the vice-speaker honored the Iranian Navy Day, which falls on Nov. 27, and pointed out the valor and devotion of the Navy personnel in the course of the imposed war, stressing that their bravery and self-sacrifice will be recorded forever in the history of the Iranian nation's struggle against the arrogant powers.

Underlining the special significance of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman from a strategic standpoint and pointing to the presence of outside forces in the Persian Gulf, Rouhani said that the Iranian Navy should be reinforced. He noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces including the Navy act both as a defensive force and a deterrent. "Iran, as the Leader of the Islamic Revolution has often stressed, has never had any aggressive intentions. Nevertheless, it has always proven that it is completely prepared to withstand aggressors and cut their hands off."

The Majlis vice-speaker also touched on the military expenditure of Iran and some other countries in the region. He said that Iran, with a population of over sixty million, has an annual defensive spending of 2.7 billion dollars. "While Saudi Arabia, with a population of 13.5 million, had an annual military expenditure of 16.5, 13.9 and 13.2 billion dollars from 1993-1995," Rouhani added, stressing that such a comparison shows that the disinformation campaign launched against the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding its armament is spiteful and unrealistic.

Concerning the objectives followed by the arrogant powers, particularly the United States, through such disinformation, the senior parliamentarian noted that the first objective is selling arms to the regional countries. "During the past 16 years, the United States has sold 308.5 billion dollar worth of arms to the member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC). Clearly, it does not want to lose this market," he said.

"The second objective sought by the United States is continuing its military presence near the oil wells in the Persian Gulf region," Rouhani added.

Emphasizing that the U.S. military presence in the region will lead to tension, the Parliament vice-speaker noted that in Iran's view, the regional security should be preserved by the countries in the region themselves. "We hope the countries in the south of Persian Gulf would realize that security can be achieved through brotherhood, friendship and neighborliness and not heaping up weapons sold by the aliens," he concluded.

Power of 'Tondar' Rocket Launchers Displayed in Piroozi-7 War Games



TEHRAN – 'Tondar' (thunder) rocket launchers being used in the ongoing 'Piroozi-7' war games display the defensive and offensive capabilities of the Iranian Navy, the commander of a naval brigade of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) announced here on Wednesday.

According to Captain Dehqan, the rocket launchers have been totally designed by Iranian experts and manufactured based on advanced systems such as mobile defense and electronic warfare systems.

He added that the weapons and equipment have been designed and made by Iranian specialists on the basis of modern war strategies and objectives.

Dehqan said that high maneuver power, rapid deployment and flexibility in defensive and offensive operations are among the special features of 'Tondar' rocket launchers.

The ten-day Piroozi-7 war games started on November 20 in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. (IRNA)

Tunisia for Strategic Cooperation With Iran

TEHRAN – Tunisian Ambassador to Iran Mohammad Saad on Wednesday underlined the necessity of expanding cooperation between Iran and the Arab world, and expressed his country's keenness to further promote mutual cooperation in all fields.

He added that Iran enjoys a very important position in the region and Tunisia is willing to boost her cooperation with Tehran in the political, economic and cultural domains.

He said that the Tunisian Minister for Foreign Affairs Habib bin Yahia, heading a high-ranking delegation is to pay a three-day official visit to Tehran starting Thursday.

The delegation is to confer with Iranian officials on broadening of bilateral cooperation in different areas such as commerce, oil, trade and agriculture, he said.

In view of Islamic bonds between the two countries and the existence of grounds for boosting cooperation, he expressed hope that an important step would be taken to open a new horizen in bilateral cooperation.

He said that we cannot ignore the role of Iran in regional cooperation and also in the Arab world which is beneficial to the countries of the region for maintenance of peace and stability. (IRNA)

(Contd from Pg. 9)

BLUNDER...

embargo, the Home Office usually wrote to inform his department that Britain planned to incorporate the embargo into British law and propose that the Isle of Man do the same.

"But this time there was no notification and, we subsequently learned, no... order. That means the embargo was not in force here," he said.

The alleged arms shipments by Mil-Tec Corporation were made from both Albania and Israel.

Mil-Tec allegedly tried to circumvent the UN embargo by sending the weapons to Goma, just across the border in Zaire. Most of the shipments had Zairean end-user certificates, press reports here said.

The UN arms embargo in question was imposed on May 1994 and was tightened in June, when an amendment specified that it was illegal for arms suppliers to export weapons to Rwanda from a third country, and gave national governments the duty of prosecuting such offenders.

It was incorporated into British law on June 24, 1994.

London last week launched an investigation into arms trade controls in the wake of the allegations against Mil-Tec.

Downing Street set up an inter-departmental government committee to look at a number of issues, including whether the government should have extra powers to prevent British nationals and companies supplying arms from outside Britain.

But the British government insisted that even if the Mil-Tec shipments did break the UN embargo, they did not contravene British law, as no arms traveled through British territory. (AP)

(Contd from Pg.5)

TALKS...

while proposing to allow Japanese companies to compete with foreign firms, who have managed to establish a foothold in the remaining 5 percent of the market for specialty insurance such as coverage for long-term nursing home stays. (AP)

(Contd from Pg. 11)

ACHIEVEMENTS...

high-level study tours for some 60 senior officials, some 35 longer-term fellowships, four in-country course for 60 trainers. Parallel financing came from both public and revenue through tax reforms. UNDP is also supporting the National public administration reform program, which has attracted significant collateral support, most recently from the Netherlands, specially for those aspects which deal with the decentralization of public administration. (Duration: 1992-96)

Kyrgyzstan: Freedom of Expression Through Mass Media

To encourage a broader flow of objective public information on social and economic structural reforms in Kyrgyzstan, UNDP is training journalists to report on financial, business and social issues. Nearly 100 journalists have taken courses on business and economic reporting, ethics of journalism, media freedom, and reporting on such subjects as environment, women and illegal narcotics. English language training, organized for 55 people, led to broader coverage of international events. Over 30 journalists gained computer skills. On-the-job training in contemporary news gathering and audio-visual production unit. A new media resource center attracts many visitors. (Duration: 1995-96; Partners: Kyrgyzstan: UN Population Fund: UN Educational scientific and Cultural Organization)

(Courtesy the UNDP)

Well-Wishers Send Gifts to Non-Existent Wedding

TAIPEI, Taiwan – Swindlers who sent out invitations to a wedding banquet that never occurred have duped well-wishers out of large amounts of money.

About 10,000 invitations for the wedding banquet of "Lin Cheng-Nan and Cheng Yin-Hua" were mailed out across the island.

Tens of thousands of Taiwan dollars were wired directly to an account number listed on the invitation, and about 300,000 Taiwan dollars were mailed to another address.

(AP)

French Spiderman Scales HK Skyscraper

HONG KONG – A French climber caused a stir in Hong Kong on Wednesday by scaling one of the city's tallest skyscrapers without the use of any equipment.

Alain Raymond, a 34-year-old Parisian, climbed the gleaming gold exterior of the Far East Finance Center, in Admiralty district, unaided.

Clad only in jeans and T-shirt, Raymond skinned up the 50-story building by clutching onto the the window rims.

(AFP)

Tigers Reject Peace Overtures, Vow to Keep Up Sri Lanka Bloodshed

COLOMBO – Sri Lanka's most powerful Tamil Tiger rebel leader on Wednesday rejected peace overtures from President Chandrika Kumaratunga and vowed, in a speech, to fight on for a separate state.

Velupillai Prabhakaran, the supreme of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) told his supporters in a rare address that there was no liberation without death, destruction, bloodshed and sacrifices.

His four-page speech sent here by the LTTE's London office ridiculed Kumaratunga's recently repeated offer of peace talks to end the decades old separatist war that has claimed more than 50,000 lives.

"While issuing statements that she is prepared for talks with the LTTE through third party mediation, she also laid down ridiculous conditions that we should surrender arms before talks.

"No liberation movement with self-respect could accept such humiliating conditions," Prabhakaran said in his address to mark the end of ceremonies to commemorate thousands of LTTE cadres killed in action.

Prabhakaran, Sri Lanka's most wanted man, said he was not opposed to negotiations with the government of President Kumaratunga, a member of the majority Sinhalese community, but added he did not expect success.

"We cannot gain our rights by pleading with the Sinhala rulers," he said. "History has not recorded any liberation struggle that was won without fighting, without bloodshed, without death and destruction, without sacrifices."

(AFP)

Priests Rescue Handicapped Children

BUKAVU, Zaire – A group of dedicated priests saved 52 handicapped refugee children from last month's fighting in eastern Zaire, carrying many of them on their backs through the mountains to safety.

The children are due to return to a home for the handicapped in Rwanda later this week, accompanied by relief workers, but they could easily have figured among the war's casualties.

As shells rained down around their mission, and Tutsi rebels advanced on the regional center of Bukavu, eight priests – six Belgian and two Zaireans – decided to escort their charges, aged between 11 and 18, to a safe refuge in the hills, Brother Bernard of the Brothers of Charity told AFP.

The children, mostly physically handicapped but including two who were visually impaired, one blind and three mentally handicapped, were showing increasing signs of panic as the fighting neared, he said.

(AFP)



SIDI-MOUSSA, Algeria (Nov. 26): Algerian government employees paste referendum posters in the village of Sidi-Moussa, 40 kms south of the capital Algiers, ahead of today's constitutional consultation.

(AFP PHOTO)

Rescue Workers Recover 123 Bodies From Plane in Comoro

ADDIS ABABA – Rescue workers in the Comoro Islands have recovered 123 bodies from an Ethiopian Airliner that crashed into the sea after being hijacked, and are still searching for a further two victims, Ethiopian radio said Wednesday.

Fifty people survived the disaster, the radio added, quoting Ethiopian Airlines, whose Boeing 767 crashed Saturday off an Indian Ocean beach while carrying 175 people.

An Ethiopian magazine reporter said Wednesday that six of the 12 crew members died in the crash. The surviving members included the pilot and co-pilot.

The plane was hijacked on a flight from Addis Ababa to Nairobi and ordered to fly to Australia. The motive for its seizure remains unclear.

Ethiopian radio said Tuesday there were three hijackers, all of them Ethiopian. It said two men initially arrested on suspicion of commandeering the jet were not involved in the hijack after all.

(AFP)

French Truckers Reach Two Accords but Keep Up Pressure

PARIS – Striking French truckers kept up the pressure with countrywide barrages on Wednesday in spite of an agreement with employers on two of the drivers' key demands.

As airline pilots added to the country's transport woes with a two-day strike and militant railway workers staged a sympathy stoppage, government mediator Robert Cros announced agreement on early retirement and shorter working hours after 20 hours of negotiations with employers that began Tuesday afternoon.

Prime Minister Alain Juppe told a cabinet meeting that "pressure must be kept up on the two sides to reach a final agreement as soon as possible."

Transport Minister Bernard Pons said "considerable progress" had been made and said he hoped there would be a successful conclusion "as soon as possible."

After the adjournment, truckers' unions urged drivers to keep up the pressure.

(AFP)

Milosevic Faces Further Mass Demonstrations

BELGRADE – Beleaguered Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic faced a ninth straight day of mass demonstration in Belgrade on Wednesday over the cancelation of election results, while the opposition boycotted reruns of the polls.

Thousands of striking students marched through the streets of the capital protesting at the "thieving" of votes by the authorities.

In a major breakthrough, the opposition Coalition Together wrested control of Belgrade and other key towns from the ruling Serbian Socialist Party in the last round of local elections on November 17.

It was the first time that Belgrade had not been in the hands of the Socialists since the fall of communism in the former Yugoslavia in 1990.

However, the opposition's victory was overturned by the authorities who canceled a series of results on the basis of "irregularities" and called reruns for Wednesday.

(AFP)

Bhutto's Detained Husband Shifted to Karachi

KARACHI – Asif Ali Zardari, detained husband of deposed Premier Benazir Bhutto, was flown from Islamabad to Karachi Wednesday, police and witnesses here said.

Zardari was not allowed to meet relatives or friends at the airport, witnesses said.

Soon after landing, he was led to a police armored vehicle which took him to an undisclosed location, the sources said.

Zardari was moved to Karachi from a police guest house at Sihala near Islamabad, where he had been under detention since the November 5 dismissal of Bhutto's government by President Farooq Ahmed Leghari.

His transfer coincided with the withdrawal earlier Wednesday of the detention order against him in the Punjab, under a law which allows detention for up to three months for someone considered a threat to public peace.

(AFP)

Lithuanian Parliament Elects Vagnorus PM

VILNIUS – The Lithuanian Parliament on Wednesday elected Gediminas Vagnorus, chief economist of the rightwing Fatherland Union, as prime minister.

Vagnorus, whose candidature was approved by 95 of the 136 deputies, was put forward by President Algirdas Brazauskas after consulting parliamentary factions.

He was previously prime minister between 1991 and 1992 under Vitautas Landsbergis, head of the Fatherland Union.

A right-wing coalition returned to power in elections in November, although the presidency remains in the hands of the left.

Presenting Vagnorus, Brazauskas said the government would have "a difficult task ahead of it," in particular on the questions of "improving the taxation system, increasing foreign investment and reforming the banking system."

Vagnorus must now be sworn in, form a government and present a programme within 15 days.

Vagnorus said Wednesday he would present his government and his program as early as November 28. Deputies will vote on both and, if they are approved, Vagnorus' candidature will be final.

(AFP)

SRINAGAR, KASHMIR, India (Nov. 26): Kashmiri Muslims carry the body of a slain comrade, under the watchful eyes of Indian army soldiers (background), in Koel village, in Kashmir's southern Pulwama district. Four Muslim separatists were killed during a gunbattle sparked when soldiers sealed off the village and began searching houses.

(AFP PHOTO)

S. Africa to Cut Ties With Taiwan

JOHANNESBURG – South Africa, the most important nation to recognize Taiwan, is to cut its diplomatic ties with the island, President Nelson Mandela announced Wednesday.

Mandela told a media briefing here that the government of South Africa, the largest of 30 states which currently recognizes the island, will switch ties to mainland China in December 1997 "to ensure a smooth transition."

"A permanent continuation of diplomatic recognition of the Republic of China (Taiwan) is inconsistent with South Africa's role in international affairs," Mandela said.

(AFP)

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS



MINSK - The Belarus constitutional court decided to halt the impeachment procedure started by the Parliament against President Alexander Lukashenko.

CALCUTTA - Debi Shetty, the cardiac surgeon at the B.M. Birla heart institute where Mother Teresa is being prepared for an operation, said he had "no doubts" that the 86-year-old Nobel peace laureate could recover again following heart failure.

BUCHAREST - Former Romanian Premier Petre Roman, whose party is the main ally of the new ruling Christian Democratic Party, on Wednesday was elected president of the senate.

JAKARTA – A Jakarta court Wednesday sentenced scores of supporters of opposition figure Megawati Sukarnoputri to four months in jail on charges linked to mass rioting in July.

WARSAW - A huge child-sex ring uncovered by Polish police in the northern city of Szczecin and involving more than 1,000 pedophiles included dozens of foreign clients.

OSLO - Norwegian Planning Minister Terje Roed Larsen resigned Wednesday over a tax scandal that had dogged him throughout his four weeks in the government.

TEHRAN TIMES

South Countries Object To WTO Process On Investment

Geneva: A day-long UNCTAD-sponsored 'Global Investment Forum', meeting as a high-level segment of its Trade and Development Board, ended on a note of disagreement over whether trade and investment as an issue could be taken up at the forthcoming Singapore Ministerial Conference, whether for negotiations or even a study process.

Some of the sharp disagreements voiced over even a study process at the WTO on the relationships between trade and investment suggest that if its sponsors (the WTO Director-General, Canada, Japan, the EU, and to some extent the U.S.) persisted in it, the Signapore Conference in December 1996 may prove to be a scene of contention and confrontation.

The first two sessions of the forum, one devoted to the issue of investments and benefits, and another on a multilateral framework, had a large chorus of views about the benefits with several developing nations, particularly the least developed countries, outlining their liberal regimes and pleading for foreign direct investment. However, they were met with lofty generalized responses from the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the executives of transitional corporations who had been brought in on what they should do.

In fact the so-called private sector participation was of the private sector of the North, and its large TNCs. This lopsided representation and the claim of a few from the North to speak for the world's business was commented upon, and the UNCTAD secretary-general appeared to agree with this criticism when he said small and medium businesses from the South would need to be brought in for any future meetings.

But there were a few sharp presentations, including one by Martin Khor of the Third World Network, on the coasts and negative effects of FDI and the need for a full and adequate study and objective analysis. Khor reminded the developing country delegations that their countries had fought for independence in order to ensure autonomy of economic space and development free from foreign capitals' stranglehold. A multilateral investment agreement would reverse the entire process. He was also sharply critical of the 180-degree turn by UNCTAD's division on TNCs after the old UNCTC was closed down in New York and transferred here.

The lopsided status and voice given to international business was best illustrated by the fact that in the entire session, while everyone including the panelists spoke from the floor, the ICC (which had two representatives there to give the business view) spoke from a special place by the side of the podium.

The UNCTAD secretary-general, who chaired and moderated the second session, noted the experience of countries with bilateral and regional agreements and the 'unknown' as far as they were concerned of a multilateral framework which at the moment was a kind of 'ideal construct'. He also noted that the negotiation of a General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), involving commercial presence as a mode of supply, had ultimately become possible only because of the work done in UNCTAD from 1984. He appeared to be trying to make the point that a similar process in UNCTAD on investment could help open the way for a multilateral framework.

However, the final session of the forum, on 'where do we go from here?' which had been intended to elicit views and reactions to a study process at UNCTAD and the WTO, while generally favorable to an UNCTAD process, elicited some sharp opposition from several developing countries, including many from sub-Saharan Africa, on an MIA or a WTO process towards it.

A few developed countries tried to assure developing countries that they had nothing to worry about as their views would be accommodated in an MIA process in the WTO.

But statements by others made clear that the North had some definite views on what elements and principles they had already decided to have in their proposed MIA, and what they would not agree to.

The ICC, the United States and other countries of origin of TNCs made clear that while they sought 'rights' for the foreign investors, including right of investment or establishment, and right to national and MFN [Most Favoured Nation] treatment, such investors would undertake no particular or special obligations towards host countries and their development or other objectives of development policy and research.

The U.S. made clear that the approach of 'right of investors and their obligations', was not acceptable to the United States, and any attempt to renew the effort to formulate a code of conduct for TNC would be rejected.

The only approach acceptable, the U.S. delegate said, was the GATT approach of 'national treatment' (between domestic and imported goods) and the MFN principle.

These elements (the right of entry and establishment of foreign firms, national treatment and removal of restrictions or remittances) were criticized by representatives of developing countries as infringing on their sovereign right to regulate investments for development and social objectives.

Several countries including Uganda, Indonesia and India spoke strongly against work being done at the WTO on an MIA, or even a study process, whilst others including Ghana and Zambia warned against being rushed into an MIA process.

The Uganda finance minister described the Northern attempts to lobby for an MIA by claiming that it would bring more FDI to Africa, as 'deceit'.

Minister Basoga Nsadhu said, 'We were told if we had democracy we would get funds. We had democracy but no funds came. We were told if we had structural adjustments, FDI would come. We had SAPs, but no funds came. We were told if we had trade liberalization and privatization, FDI would come, but none came. Now we are told we will get funds if there is an MIA.'

'You are trying to cheat Africa,' he said with some emotion.

Nsadhu said the relationship between developed and developing countries in the proposed MIA was a 'tricky' one. The rich countries and their companies wanted the markets of poor countries and to make profits from them.

'The relationship here is completely unequal,' he added.

He also said that African countries would be disadvantaged if they agreed to an MIA or MAI. Before they were able to strengthen themselves through national efforts or regional groupings, 'it is a waste of time to move to an MIA, as we would remain net suppliers of raw materials and we would only serve as markets.'

Developing countries' reactions at the recent 'Global Investment Forum' sponsored by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development showed clearly that if industrialized countries persist in trying to bring trade and investment into the World Trade Organization, the Singapore Ministerial Conference in December 1996 may be a scene of contention and confrontation.

He added it was uncertain 'how much financial resources would go out of our countries due to foreign investment. The outflow will be much greater than the capital inflow.

'The way forward is not to rush into this process. It is a deceit to say that if you sign on to an MIA you will get investment.'

India's ambassador to the WTO, Mr Narayanan, stressed that the initiative for an MIA was coming not from the capital-importing countries but capital-exporting countries. The issue of investment had ramifications beyond trade, and it needed careful study and analysis and should best be done in UNCTAD, which has been mandated at UNCTAD-IX in Midrand to study all aspects of the issue, and with a development focus. Narayanan mentioned in this connection the ICC view that a multilateral framework should include portfolio investments.

UNCTAD, he said, had a wider membership than the WTO, which as a negotiating forum was not the most ideal place for an educative process. On the view that came from the U.S. and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development that an OECD agreement could later be multilaterlised, Narayanan said the OECD was entitled to negotiate anything it wanted. But it can't be multilateralised unless the wider WTO members agree to it.

On the view of Canada, Japan, Norway, the U.S. and others that the study of the issue could take place in both UNCTAD and the WTO, Narayanan warned that any such a parallel process will result in marginalising the UNCTAD process. The issue should be studied in UNCTAD as mandated.

A representative from Bangladesh said that his country already had a very liberal investment regime. 'Yet we feel the time is not ripe to have regulations on treatment of FDI under a rules-based organization like the WTO which has the possibility of cross-retaliation.' He added that the country's experience on FDI was limited, and there was also little knowledge on issues relating to the subject. As such there was a fear of the unknown.

Zambia's Ambassador Patrick Sinyinza, speaking as president of the Trade and Development Board, said there was no mathematical equation that can predict the flow and direction of FDI to answer the question of whether an investment code can increase investment to Africa.

'We have learnt that the determinants of FDI go beyond an investment code. FDI is determined by other factors such as the political environment. That is why Africa liberalized its investment regime but investment flows have not come despite the multiple incentives granted.'

He said there was no clear answer whether a global investment code would be to Africa's advantage and thus this question should be subject to more analysis.

Earlier, Sinyinza had said that Zambia had unilaterally liberalized its FDI regime, and was now observing with concern the MIA discussion in various fora. In this regard, he posed the questions, 'Why now? What is in it for developing countries? How would an MIA change the flow of FDI?' He proposed that UNCTAD should carry out studies in this direction.

But the final words of the session rested with Indonesia. Putting the issue on the agenda of the Singapore Ministerial Conference or initiation of a study process at Singapore on trade and investment, said Indonesian delegate Mr Soenaryo Danusaputro, Deputy Chairman of Indonesia's Investment Coordinating Board, 'is totally inappropriate and unacceptable'.

Soenaryo said it was the role and right of governments to take measures to maximize the benefits of FDI and minimize its costs. The host country had the right to use policies to improve its technology level by requiring foreign investors to transfer technology.

Therefore, the OECD's multilateral agreement on investment (MAI) is not appropriate or relevant to the interests of most developing countries, said Soenaryo. He added that the developed countries also wanted to use the WTO not only for trade but also for investment issues.

Although trade and investment are related, these two areas were also different since trade involves marketing of products arising from production, whilst investment involves improving the national capacity to produce. Soenaryo said that binding developing countries to investment rules would be 'risky' to their interests.

The WTO already had a committee on Trade-related Investment Measures, to deal with the TRIMS agreement, which reflected a careful balance in the Uruguay Round. Information and analysis on the linkages between trade and investment are still lacking. Investment and investment policy have many critical dimensions, of which trade is only one. Other aspects include finance, technology, ownership of assets, and implications of the balance of equity holdings.

Therefore, said the Indonesian official, the Midrand mandate to UNCTAD to review and discuss these many effects of investment is valid.

'UNCTAD is the best forum to look at the issue of a multilateral framework on investment. Pursuing an educative process in the WTO is totally inappropriate and unacceptable. We want UNCTAD to do this.'

The moderator terminated the session on that note, though some other developing countries including Malaysia, and one or two panelists had put up their cards desiring to speak.

A statement by the Chair, Minister Alec Erwin of South Africa, who disclaimed he was doing any summing up, but sought to sum up by speaking about the role of business, failed to bring a note of consensus to the proceedings. Erwin also sought by his words to moderate the sharp disagreements from several of South Africa's neighbors to an MIA and spoke of the business role in economic growth and development, and about regional integration having to embrace trade, investment, etc. But it remained a South Africa view.

(Courtesy Third World Network Features)

Britain Confirms Leaked Budget Papers Genuine

LONDON — Top secret documents revealing tax changes were leaked to a tabloid newspaper just hours before the annual budget on Tuesday, causing acute embarrassment to the deeply unpopular Conservative government.

The *Daily Mirror*, calling the leaks 'the shambles of the decade', said it decided not to publish the documents because of the chaos it could cause on international financial markets.

Prime Minister John Major's Office confirmed the leaks of 36 budget documents to the newspaper were genuine. Other newspapers said Major had called in the MI5 Security Service to investigate the source of the leaks.

Editor Piers Morgan said he had handed the papers back to the Office of Chancellor of the Exchequer (finance minister) Kenneth Clarke, whose budget is crucial to the hopes of the Conservatives staying in power at an election due by May.

Clarke is expected to announce a small cut in income tax and paint a rosy picture of Britain's economic future in a bid to convince voters they should stick with the Conservatives, in power since 1979.

Budget details are one of the most closely guarded secrets in British government circles. A previous finance minister had to resign in 1947 after leaking tax details to a journalist.

Financial markets, while intrigued by the leaks, did not react. Sterling was unaffected and dealers took a sanguine view of what is more of a political than a financial embarrassment.

Morgan, hailing the story as 'the scoop of a lifetime', said Major's Office acted with amazement when told of the leak.

"There was a long silence and then they decided they would start by threatening us with legal action and we pointed out that actually we were going to return it anyway," he said.

"We eventually handed it over at no 10 (Downing Street) with one of our reporters, who shook hands warmly with one of their policemen and handed over the budget back to Ken, who I assume was in there having a late night cocoa," he told BBC Radio.

The paper, without giving details, said in a five-page spread in its last edition that the leaks revealed details of income, inheritance, capital gains, road and company tax.

A treasury spokesman said Clarke would not change the contents of the budget because of the revelations. The slip-up added to the public perception of an accident-prone government which has been shaken by a string of sex and financial scandals.

The Party is also badly divided over just how committed Britain should be to the European Union.

Clarke faced a grilling from MPS on Monday over claims the government was hiding from the electorate how far a European single currency would affect Britain.

The *Daily Miror* is a supporter of the opposition Labour Party, which has a 20 point lead over the Conservatives in opinion polls in the lead-up to the election.

Labour's Finance spokesman Gordon Brown condemned the leak but did not believe it was a resignation issue for Clarke. *(REUTER)*

Talks Resume on Insurance Dispute

TOKYO — U.S. and Japanese negotiators on Monday resumed talks aimed at settling a prolonged dispute over foreign access to Japan's lucrative insurance market before a self-imposed deadline of Dec. 15.

The outlook for progress at the talks, which were scheduled to last two days, was not good following a similar set of meetings earlier this month in San Francisco that produced no progress.

The U.S. negotiating team was being led by Ira Shapiro, general counsel for the U.S. trade representative's office, while the Japanese side was led by Eisuke Sakakibara, head of the finance ministry's international finance bureau.

Insurance is one of several lingering areas of trade tension between Japan and the United States. Washington insists that Japan is not living up to a 1994 agreement calling for easier access by foreign companies to the Japanese insurance market, which is the world's second-largest.

The U.S. side says Japan is delaying deregulation of 95 percent of the market in the major areas of health, life and auto insurance

(Contd on Pg. 15)



Modern Transport Systems Do Not Save Time

Modern transportation systems, the writer says, do not save people time, but rather contribute to the modern condition of 'not having enough time'. They also consume space, emphasize the gap between the rich and the poor, and contribute to the disintegration of communities.

Time is money, we are told, and increasingly mobility is a way of saving time. The economic justification for the construction of new motorways, including the projected Trans-European Networks, depends upon the monetary value attached to millions of little time-savings made by millions of motorists.

And yet, the more roads, infrastructure and time-saving gadgetry we construct, the less time people seem to have. Nowadays, the observation that 'no one has any time for each other any more' is a commonplace, particularly among older people; yet there are few attempts to explain why this should be so. How can we explain the paradox that the more people try to save time, the less they seem to have? In other words, what do people do with the time they save?

More Speed, Less Access

Looking carefully at people's use of space and time, Torgen Hagerstrand suggests that the ability to make contact with places and other people is the central organizing feature of human activity and that it is ease of access to other people and facilities that determines the success of a transportation system, rather than the means or the speed of transport. It is relatively easy to increase the speed at which people move around, much harder to introduce changes that enable us to spend less time gaining access to the facilities that we need.

Today, facilities are sited further apart and people have to travel further to reach them than they did 70 years ago. In their home territories, they must travel to supermarkets or leisure facilities and often must cover some distance while looking for somewhere to park. In their work, they must be prepared to commute further afield to find jobs. In their leisure time people in Britain contemplate day trips to Brussels, Paris or Stockholm, when previously they would have thought the idea ridiculous.

C. Marchetti has shown that the *amount of time each person devotes to travel is roughly the same*, regardless of how fast or how far they travel. 'When people gain speed they use it to travel further and not to make more trips. In other words, most individuals treat their territory the same way whatever size it is.' Those who use technology to travel at greater speeds still have to make the same amount of contacts — still work, eat, sleep and play in the same proportions as always. They simply do these things further apart.

Do they do so by choice or through obligation? A circular logic operates here. While the distances between hospitals, schools, shopping centers and the like have risen, nothing can be done to increase the number of hours in a day. Speed must therefore be increased, and investments are made in quicker forms of transport — families buy faster cars, governments build faster roads and railways. But the time-savings promised by new motorways and high-speed trains appear to release time for more travel and thus only spurs the consumption of distance.

Social Speeds

The suggestion that people spend about the same amount of time traveling, whatever their mode of transport, does not, however, explain the fact that many people feel that they have less time than they had before, despite faster means of transport.

There is another hidden time factor in the equation. Motor cars and other high-speed vehicles do not save as much time as they appear to, as Ivan Illich pointed out in 1974: 'The typical American devotes more than 1,600 hours a year to his car. He sits in it while it goes and when it stands idling. He parks and searches for it. He earns the money to put down on it and to meet the monthly installments. He works to pay for petrol, tolls, insurance, taxes and tickets.'

Elaborating on Illich's observations, D. Seifried has coined the term 'social speed' to signify the average speed of a vehicle, once a number of these hidden factors have been taken into account.

According to Seifried, the social speed of a typical bicycle is 14 kilometers per hour (kph), only slightly slower than that of a small car. If other external costs (air and noise pollution, accident costs, road construction costs and so on) are taken into account as well, then the small car is 1 kph slower than the bicycle. Thus the owner of a small car who spends 30 minutes per day driving 20 kilometers may feel that he/she is traveling faster than a cyclist who spends the same time covering 71/2 kilometers. But when the social speed is taken into account, it emerges that the car owner is likely to be spending 70 minutes per day while the cyclist is spending only 32!

Space Pollution

Whereas speed consumes distance, a mode of transport occupies space — and the faster the mode of transport, the more space it requires. According to a 1985 Swiss study, a car traveling at 40 kph requires over three times as much space as a car traveling at 10 kph.

Furthermore, the 'bodywork' often associated with high-speed vehicles demands space even when the vehicle is traveling slowly; a single person in a car traveling at 10 kph requires six times as much space as a person *riding on a bicycle at the same* speed. Space therefore has to be consumed in large quantities to provide the infrastructure for high-speed travel as can be witnessed in the land requirements for new motorways, high-speed rail routes and airports.

Roads designed to carry traffic at speeds over 120 kph take up more land than roads designed for lower speeds, and the same is true for high-speed rail — fast cars and trains cannot take tight bends. Urban motorway and 'relief' road construction is the ultimate expression of space sacrificed for speed.

Time Thieves

As higher speeds lead to greater distances between facilities, people overcome this distance by gaining access to modes of transport with higher speeds. The result of both has been an accentuation of social differences. While those with access to high-performance cars and intercontinental air flights have seen their radius of activity expand immeasurably over the last few decades, that of many unemployed residents in London or elderly people in Alabama, for instance, may be no greater than of urban residents 100 years ago. The poor and unemployed, whose time is valued very low, are expected to find the time to devote to travel; the rich have the money to buy travel and are more likely to do so because their time is considered more valuable.

The more emphasis put on time-savings, the more the whole transport system becomes skewed to serve a wealthy elite. The Trans-European Networks, for example, will cater mainly for the needs of a Euro-elite of business executives, conference-goers, commuters, middle-class holiday-makers and just-in-time deliveries. They will not make access to daily facilities any more convenient for people in their neighborhoods.

Transport policies and polices which influence location and accessibility of basic facilities steal time from different groups in society and reallocate it to (usually) richer groups.

The relocation of shops, hospitals and schools at a greater distance from the community that needs them imposes serious time penalties on other users.. Those without cars (still about 35% of the UK population) and those without access to them during the day must spend more time searching for other facilities, waiting for buses, waiting for friends to give them lifts, or walking. Women, children, the elderly and the infirm are particularly affected.

Maintaining Community

Jane Jacobs' account of city life in the U.S. some 30 years ago shows how important ordinary but diverse contact is to people's well-being. Maintaining a sense of community needs time and energy devoted to neighbors and local groups. Such local contacts depend on time available and thus on priorities. The decision to travel longer distances and save time at higher speeds means that little time is available for interaction with neighbors and so there is little chance of a genuine community developing or maintaining itself.

Motorists not only restrict their own lives in this respect, but also those of others. Detailed studies on the effect of traffic volumes upon different street communities in San Francisco showed, not surprisingly, that streets with heavy traffic have relatively little social interaction; residents of streets with light traffic had three times as many local friends and twice as many acquaintances as did residents of busy streets.

Conclusion

Ironically, then, modern transport systems such as the proposed Trans-European Networks don't save people any time at all, but rather contribute to the modern condition of 'not having enough time', the sense of time being squeezed. And in striving for these fictitious time-savings, such transport systems consume huge quantities of space, accentuate the gap between those who can afford such travel and those who can't, and contribute to the disintegration of communities.

(Third World Network Features)

'Super Religion' Accused of Swindling Followers

FUJI, Japan — With memories of last year's fatal gas attack on the Tokyo subway still vivid, another Japanese cult is under fire over allegations it swindled followers with "foot diagnoses" and sales of ashes purportedly from Buddha.

Katsumi Fujimori, a 51-year-old lawyer for hundreds of victims, says he received his first complaint about Honohana Sanpogyo, which roughly translates as the Three-law Practice of the Flower of Law, in 1992.

Since then, he has handled 1,025 complaints from former members seeking 4.6 billion yen ($41 million) in compensation, including suits filed by more than 450 former followers with the Shizuoka District Court since August.

The Shizuoka prefectural government recognized Honohana as a religious corporation in 1987, giving it certain tax breaks. At the end of last year, it had 110,589 members — about ten times more than Aum had at its peak.

"It's a group of swindlers while Aum is a group of terrorists," Fujimori said, comparing the group with the Aum Supreme Truth Doomsday cult, accused of carrying out last year's nerve gas attack which left 12 dead and thousands injured.

Honohana is led by Hogen Fukunaga, a graying 51-year-old native of Yamaguchi Prefecture with an imposing height of 190 centimeters (six feet, four inches).

Fukunaga founded the cult in 1980 after being "gifted with the ability to hear the divine message from the creator" at the age of 34.

He has met celebrities such as former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and last year received the Mahatma Gandhi World Peace Prize in India.

The Shizuoka prefectural government recognized Honohana as a religious corporation in 1987, giving it certain tax breaks. At the end of last year, it had 110,589 members — about ten times more than Aum had at its peak.

Despite almost 70 books claiming that Honohana is a "super religion" and a "supreme sect", Fukunaga's actual doctrines are not clear.

Optimism is a recurring theme in his books. "Nothing in life is impossible," he writes in "*A New Era Unprecedented Happiness*" published earlier this month.

Fujimori, the lawyer, says the cult is "patchwork of various traditional religions" from around the world. "It has a little bit of Buddhism, a bit of Christianity and other bits from other religions," he said.

Footage of "training sessions" carried out by the group are reminiscent of Aum practices, showing devoted followers shaking and yelling as they meditate.

"These teachings are just a ploy to make people forget about money so the sect can swindle its victims more easily," Fujimori said, adding that the sect was taking advantage of sick people by recruiting newcomers around hospitals.

Fujimori said one former follower with a sick daughter went to Fukunaga, who said he could tell people's fortunes by reading the soles of their foot.

Honohana has its main facility in a residential district here in Fuji City on the slopes of Mount Fuji, just 30 kilometers (18 miles) from the village of Kamikuishiki where Aum produced the nerve gas used in the Tokyo subway attack.

"This is an unbelievably dirty foot. That's why your baby was born sick," he reportedly told the woman, who was charged 100,000 yen for the "diagnosis".

Honohana also offers "training for enlightenment" costing 10 million yen and sells small quantities of ashes, purportedly taken from the cremated body of Buddha in Sri Lanka, for 20 million yen.

Members who want to leave are said to be dissuaded by threats that they will die of cancer or their family will commit suicide..

Honohana has its main facility in a residential district here in Fuji City on the slopes of Mount Fuji, just 30 kilometers (18 miles) from the village of Kamikuishiki where Aum produced the nerve gas used in the Tokyo subway attack.

Local residents in 350 nearby houses are protesting against the cult's plan to build a "human utopia" by expanding the facility to 30 hectares (74 acres).

"There won't be any room left for us. Where are we supposed to go?" asked Akira Nomura, a 43-year-old salaryman from the residents group.

Another resident, Kiyoe Nomura, a 43-year-old housewife, said she was "worried" about the expansion. "We don't know what's going on there," she said.

The cult refuses interviews, although a statement faxed to media this month denied fraud charges. "Please refrain from emotional reporting," it said.

An official at Japan's Education Ministry, which is supposed to supervise religious groups, said the ministry "has not started an investigation" into Honohana. But tax authorities are said to be looking its activities.

(AFP)

Tycoon Li Ka-Shing vindicated in Heiress' Court Battle

HONG KONG — Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka-Shing has been vindicated in an unusual legal battle in which he was accused by an American heiress of withholding part of her fortune.

In a hostile grilling in court last week, one of the world's wealthiest men was accused of keeping a U.S.$1 million from Adrienne Marsh Lefkowitz, who said the money had been left to her in trust by her father, who died in 1988.

Marsh and Li had been business associates for decades.

But Justice Woo Kwok-Hing, in a judgment handed down on Monday, blasted Lefkowitz, 51, for her 15 million Hong Kong dollars (U.S.$1.8 million) claim, saying it would have "made a mockery of the law and logic" if it had succeeded.

Lefkowitz's claim was based on a handwritten letter, sent from Marsh to Li, asking that he give his daughter a U.S.$1-million "bequest."

Li wrote to the dying man to assure him he would do "exactly as you told me to," but he never gave her the money, the court was told.

Testifying last week, Li said he had asked his lawyers for advice in 1990, and had been told he was under no obligation to make any payout.

Justice Woo rejected Lefkowitz' argument that the money had been left in trust for her, and said Li had been "extremely generous" to her father.

If the claim had succeeded, "any child can then claim after the death of a parent that the parent's funds in a bank account belong to it," Woo said

Lefkowitz said she now faced possible bankruptcy after the court ordered her to pay costs, the press reported Tuesday.

Details of the case have shed light on how Li, known for his secrecy, does business on the basis of trust and friendship.

Marsh and Li formed a business association in the plastic flower business, the start of Li's estimated U.S.$4.8-billion personal fortune.

The pair became firm friends after their business association ended in the late 1960s, when the plastic flower business began to decline, and Li concentrated more and more on property.

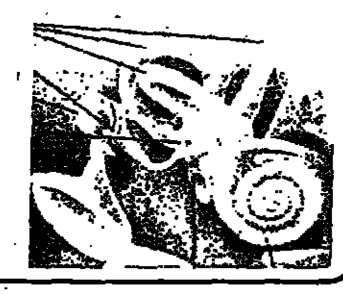
It was then that Marsh asked Li to look after some of his cash in Hong Kong, hoping to benefit from the tycoon's business acumen, the press reported on Tuesday.

At one point, when shares Marsh bought at the height of a stock market boom in 1973 crashed only a few months later, Li offered to "reverse" the deal, at a personal cost of $8 million, as a favor to his friend.

Even though Li at one time was holding up to $60 million of Marsh's assets, the two men never committed their agreement to paper. Li told the court he would only hold them for Marsh and not for other members of his family.

Li relinquished the remaining funds in 1992. They totaled $14.3 million.



Study Finds Soy bean Protein May Relieve Hot Flashes of Menopause

IEW ORLEANS — Scientists say ıere is growing evidence that soy-ean protein - commonly found in ɔfu - may relieve discomforts vomen feel during menopause.

Dr. Gregory L. Burke of Bow-nan Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, outlined the results of an experi-nent into soy's effects on meno-ause at the American Heart Associations annual scientific meet-ng recently.

The study involved 43 women etween ages 45 and 55 who suf-ered at least one bout of hot flashes or night sweating daily. For six veeks, they worked 20 grams of owdered soy protein into their di-ts, mixing it with their orange juice or sprinkling it on their cereal. For nother six weeks, they did the ame with powdered carbohydrate. No one knew until the end of the experiment ,which one they were ating.

The women reported signifi-antly less intense symptoms while ising the soy protein, although they occurred just as frequently.

Krause plans another study, in-olving 240 women, in which arger doses of soy will be tried. Another study, conducted recently t the University of Manchester in England, suggests this can reduce he frequency of hot flashes, as vell.

Experts believe the key ingredi-ent of soy protein is phytoestrogen - the plant form of the female hor-mone estrogen.

Human estrogen is widely used o relieve the effects of menopause, although some women are reluctant o take it because of side effects.

You may have 20 grams of powdered soy protein into your diet, mixing it with your orange juice or sprinkling it on your cereal

Laboratory studies suggest that soy estrogen acts on the same chemical targets in the body that human estrogen affects, although it is 1,000 times less potent.

Doctors have other reasons to think that soy might be a treatment for menopausal symptoms. One is the rarity of these problems in Asian countries, where the soy bean is common. Indeed, Burke said there is no phrase in Japanese for "hot flash."

Both heart disease and breast cancer are four times more common in the United States than in Japan, and the risk of uterine cancer is 40 percent higher.

Of course, there are many differ-ences between Japanese and U.S. women, including their genetic make up and their tendency to be obese. However, one clear differ-ence is diet, especially the fre-quency of soy foods rich in phytoes-trogen.

Burke said the typical Japanese diet includes 50 milligrams of phy-toestrogen a day. In his hot flash study, women took 34 milligrams a day. In the larger study to be con-ducted, this will increase to 68 mil-ligrams.

If these studies prove health benefits of soy, one challenge will be to fix them in a "more Western-tolerable way," he said, perhaps by using them as tasteless fillers in otherwise familiar foods.

Nevertheless, he said, "it's pru-dent to recommend that folks con-sume more soy in their diets."

The Heart Association's nutri-tion committee, which draws up widely followed eating guidelines, is not ready to recommend that Americans start eating tofu burgers and drinking soy milk. But it's watching the fast-moving soybean research closely and will change them to include more soy if the findings show that's a good idea.

"I think we are on a pretty fast track here," said Dr. Ronald Krause of the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory at the University of California.

(AP)

Cholera Epidemic Feared in Eastern Zaire

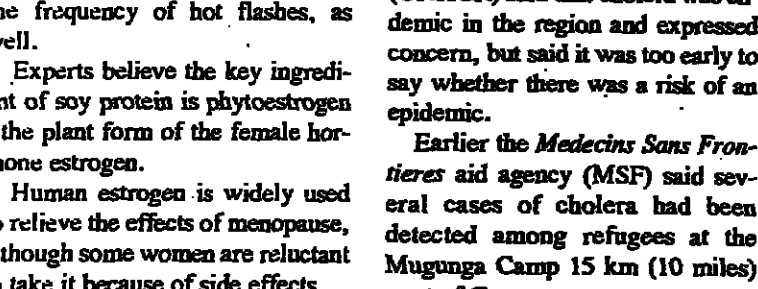
GOMA, Zaire — Relief officials voiced fears of a cholera epidemic in eastern Zaire recently after 25 cases were confirmed among Rwanda refugees at the main hospi-tal in Goma, the center of a bur-geoning refugee crisis.

A Zairean doctor said a "com-mission of epidemiological surveil-lance" in Goma had declared an epidemic.

Ray Wilkinson for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said that cholera was en-demic in the region and expressed concern, but said it was too early to say whether there was a risk of an epidemic.

Earlier the *Medecins Sans Fron-tieres* aid agency (MSF) said sev-eral cases of cholera had been detected among refugees at the Mugunga Camp 15 km (10 miles) west of Goma.





The hospital in Goma has been preparing for several days to admit, isolate and care for cholera victims in hopes of averting an epidemic.

In July 1994 when the Rwanda refugees arrived in Goma, 40,000 of them died of cholera.

Later, the UNHCR (UN High Commissioner for Refugees) said that 25 cholera patients, all of them Rwanda refugees, had been admit-ted to the Goma general hospital.

By the evening, both of the hos-pital's isolation wards, which can take some 40 patients, were full.

A doctor who came from the west from where the refugees are arriving, brought a further 10 chol-era patients, one of whom had died on the way, and these were trans-ferred to another hospital.

"People will die tonight," the doctor said. Dr. Marcel Mukengeshai, member of the Epidemiology Surveillance Com-mission, made up of health officials from Goma, said that laboratory tests carried out on two of the pa-tients had been positive.

He added that to contain the out-break, doctors would need more resources, notably medical re-sources and vehicles to collect pa-tients from the refugee route.

The general hospital is lacking in facilities, particularly fuel for the electricity generator.

As night fell in Goma, one of the nurses commented that it was im-possible to find a vein in the dark.

MSF was attempting to set up two health centers along the route between Mugunga and Goma, with water points set up at intervals of three km (two miles), officials said.

An MSF team was seeking to circulate among the crowd of refu-gees heading for Goma and the Rwanda frontier, but the mass of people was so great it hindered ef-forts. MSF has set up a small dis-pensary in Mugunga.

Wilkinson meanwhile said around 15,000 refugees per hour were crossing into Rwanda.

The facilities set up by the vari-ous UN agencies in Rwanda are in principle equipped to cope with only 12,000 refugees per day.

By early afternoon between 150,000 and 200,000 refugees had already reached Gisenyi, on the Rwanda side of the border.

Later the UNHCR estimated at 700,000 the number of refugees who had taken to the roads, most of them heading towards Rwanda.

"It's as if the whole of Africa is on the road," a spokesman said.

The weakest refugees were re-maining in the furthest camps, the UNHCR said. The relief body, lacking vehicles, has no plans as yet to fetch them.

Wilkinson said the UNHCR had so far recovered around 500 unac-companied children at the border.

(AFP)

CLOSE TO HOME JOHN McPHERSON

"Sorry about the mix-up, Mr. Bisford. We'll be moving you to a semi-private room shortly."



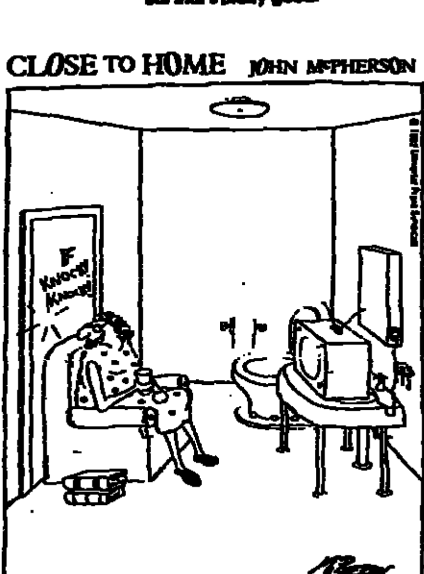
"Yeah, I know she shouldn't play with her food. But that's pretty good!"



"Now, here's the funny part, Dad."

CLOSE TO HOME JOHN McPHERSON

"Uhh ... Excuse me, ma'am, but you've ... uh ... taken my cart by mistake. I believe that's yours there."



"Now what have I told you? *Never* bother Mommy when she's in the bathroom!"



"Howard, I'm cold. Put on two more cats"

THOUGHT

Jesus (P) said: The love of this world and the next cannot be aligned in the heart of a believer, like water and fire in a single vessel.

PRAYER

Noon	11:52
Evening	17:13
Dawn (tomorrow)	05:17
Sunrise (tomorrow)	06:54

HIV Surgeon Allowed to Operate Again




LONDON — A surgeon diagnosed as carrying the HIVvirus, which can lead to AIDS, will be allowed to return to the operating theater by late December, but patients will be asked if they object, health chiefs said recently.

In what is believed to be the first case of its kind in Britain, professor George Browning, an ear specialist, will be allowed to carry out a "lim-ited" range of operations, in his particular field of expertise.

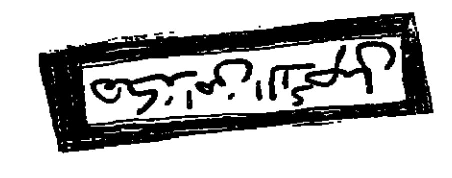
Browning welcomed the deci-sion, which would enable him to carry out about 75 operations per year.

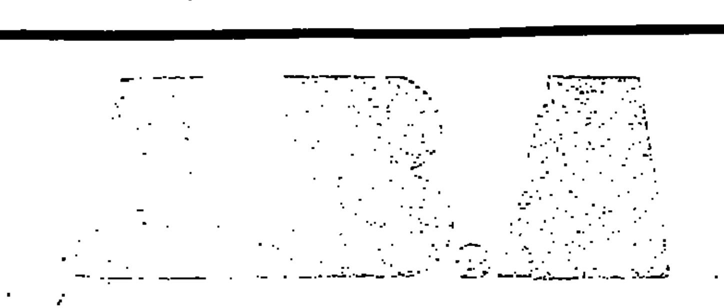
And he said that he hoped the decision may encourage other health care workers who fear they may be HIV positive to come for-ward.

A spokesman for his hospital in Glasgow, Scotland, said that pa-tients will be asked if they object to Browning operating on them and none would be pressurized into con-senting.

(AFP)





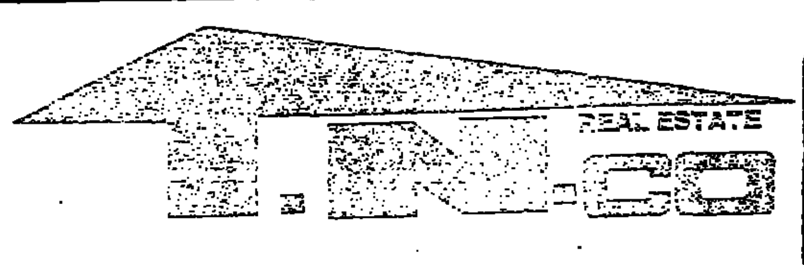


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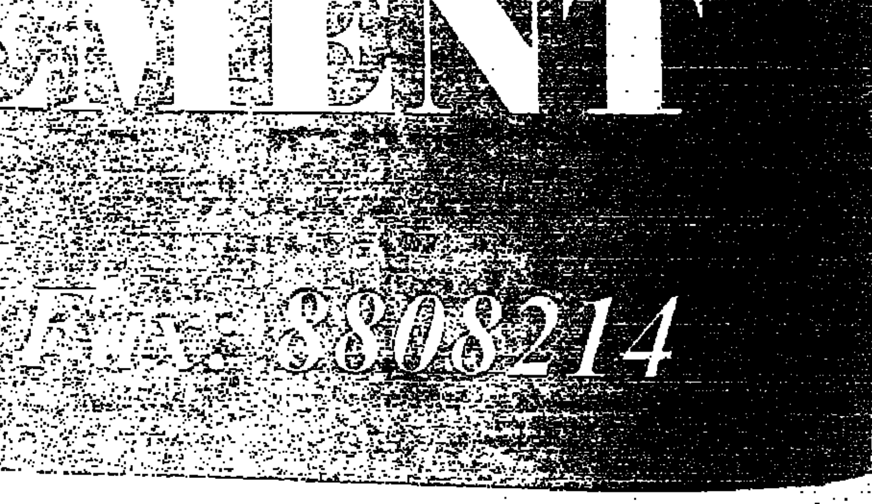
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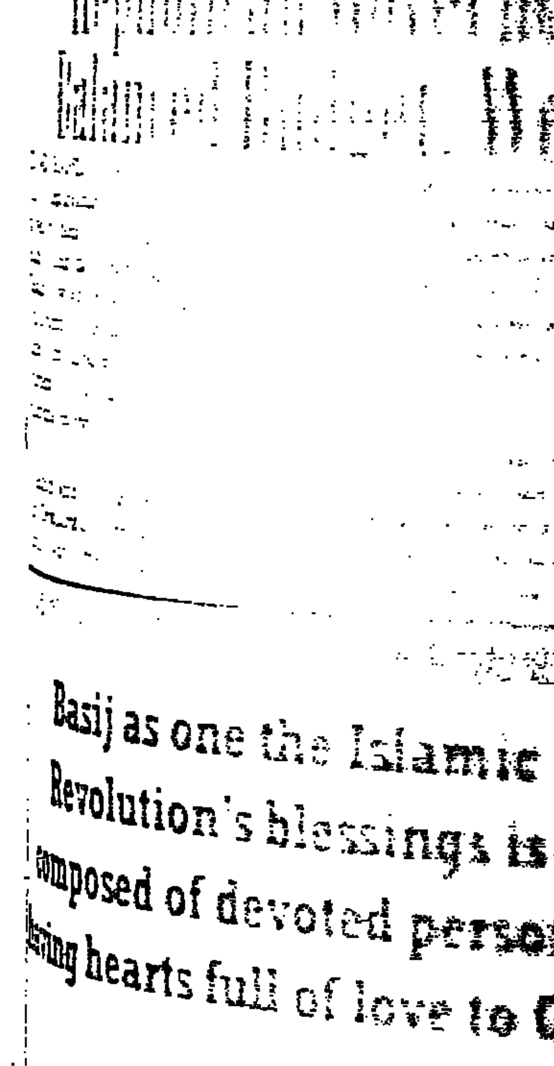
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NABLUS, West Bank: Hamas activists attend a rally organized by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) to commemorate Palestinian and Islamic activist martyrs, and in which some 4000 Islamic took part on the An-Najeh Universtiy campus in Nablus, West Bank, 20 November. The rally, which followed a new wave of arrests of Hamas activists by Israel in the West Bank over the past two days, was used by Hamas leaders to condemn peace agreements signed by Arafat and the Israelis. (AP PHOTO)

Republican Governors Press For Balanced Budget, Welfare Reform

GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan — U.S. Republican governors, buoyed by their rising influence, ended a four-day meeting here Tuesday vowing to work closely with Congress to secure a balance budget amendment and to implement welfare and educational reform.

Meeting here for the first time since Democratic President Bill Clinton was re-elected three weeks ago, the governors also elected a new chairman and vice chairman of the Republican governors Association (RGA): Iowa Governor Terry Branstad and South Carolina governor david beasley, respectively.

"Today, this is what we resolve: to renew our partnership with Congress, and to work with the president, to restore our country — one community, one state at a time and to reclaim the American dream for all Americans," said Branstad who took over from Michigan governor John Engler.

"We're in the driver's seat, moving responsibility and decisions back in the states where it belongs," he added.

During the meeting, attended Monday by Republican congressional leaders House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, participants stressed the need for continuing the strong partnership between the country's 32 Republican governors and the congressional Republican majority to promote fiscal responsibility, free enterprise, accountability and smaller government.

Both Gingrich and Lott offered to work with Clinton and the Democrats to solve the country's most pressing problems.

"Whether it's reforming welfare in Wisconsin, or changing education in Utah, cutting taxes in New Jersey, getting tough on crime in New York, standing up to the federal bureaucracy in South Carolina, or creating jobs in Ohio, it has been the states, under Republican leadership, that have shown the way," Branstad noted.

Balancing the budget emerged as a top priority and the governors Tuesday passed a motion strongly backing congressional passage of a balanced budget amendment to the US Constitution.

Currently, 49 of the 50 states employ a balanced-budget law.

Last year the proposed Constitutional amendment failed by one vote in the senate after being approved by the House.

The governors also were unanimous in opposing any major rewriting of the welfare (Social Safety Net) bill signed by Clinton earlier this year, although as New Jersey Governor Christine Whitman said some "fine-tuning" would be acceptable.

Clinton has called for some changes relating to children and immigrants in the bill, which ends federal guarantees of welfare, requires work in return for benefits and shifts most of the responsibility of managing welfare spending to states.

The governors also pressed for speedy educational reform with less regulation, more choices for parents, more flexibility for teachers and a reallocation of the billions of dollars spent on the federal bureaucracy to schools in the 50 states.

They also called for drastic reform of the federal medicaid program, whose cost has been growing at twice the rate of private-sector health care. They urged the Clinton administration to agree to give states flexibility in designing benefits or eligibility standards.

In a post-mortem on the presidential and congressional elections, the outgoing chairman of the Republican National Committee (RNC), Haley Barbour, told the governors they had demonstrated that "Republican ideas work."

"Our ideas won on November 5," he said, but urged the governors not to be complacent and to help formulate "positive ideas" to solve the real problems faced by American families such as education, crime and jobs.

"Our party needs your leadership ... I urge you to be part of making sure that our party prospers nationally, not just in your state," Barbour added.

The 32 Republican governors represent nearly 75 percent of the U.S. population.

UNITA Leader Says He Is Still Wary of Luanda Government

ANDULO, Angola — The leader of Angola's armed opposition UNITA Movement, Jonas Savimbi, told AFP in an interview that he has "no trust" in the Luanda government with which he is committed to sharing power.

"We want to set up a government of unity and national reconciliation if such a unity government can help the country out of its current mess. Why not?" he said.

But Savimbi, who fought the formerly Marxist regime in Luanda for almost two decades before the two sides signed a peace agreement in Lusaka in November 1994, cast some doubt on UNITA's desire to govern with its former foes.

Speaking to AFP at his new headquarters of Andulo in central Angola, Savimbi said that UNITA was interested in joining a unity government only if it "really wants to work for the stability of the country".

"But if it is just to rubber-stamp the policies of Dos Santos (President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos) there is no point in bothering," Savimbi said.

Turning to the issue of demobilizing his estimated 65,000 troops, Savimbi said the disarming "is effective" but he said he "understood these men's fears for their future".

Of the total UNITA troops, 23,600 men will be integrated into the future national army, under the Lusaka accords. The others will be demobilized.

"They trusted us and up to now we have been able to keep them under control. But one should not push them too far," Savimbi warned, alluding to his troops.

"However, if the Lusaka accords were 'bad' for UNITA, it was because the UNITA armed forces had failed in their task. This is my profound conviction," Savimbi said, without elaborating on the implied criticism of his own forces.

He remarked that 10 UNITA generals, who are supposed to be integrated into the general staff of the future national armed forces, had been left at their hotels in Luanda for two months and had had no contact with senior army leaders.

"They are doing absolutely nothing. They are ignored. They cannot leave Luanda. All this is not very reassuring. This situation has completely undermined our trust in the government," he said.

Savimbi said he was also disappointed that the United Nations Verification Mission in Angola (UNAVEM) "is not a buffer force" and that he did not have the means to help the troops in UNITA's 15 regroupment camps.

On political developments, Savimbi said a decision to prolong the mandate of the Angola Parliament dominated by the formerly Marxist People's Liberation Movement (MPLA) in power since independence, was "proof of the bad faith of the Luanda authorities with regard to setting up a national unity government".

He said UNITA had fulfilled its obligations under the Lusaka peace accords, whereas he said the MPLA "is buying arms and boosting its armed forces with the aid of the Russian Federation which is part of the Troika (Russia-Portugal and United States) handling the Angolan problem".

He said this was "a contradiction in terms".

"We are training our cadres to enter the political arena if the MPLA lets us do so. If we are given the possibility of taking part in politics, we are ready to do so," said Savimbi, who has been accused by the United Nations of holding up the peace process.

"We would like to feel that on the government side, there is a real will to do business with us because once the UN troops leave, how will Angolans get along?," Savimbi said.

The 7,000 UN troops who have been policing the implementation of the peace accords in Angola will begin withdrawing at the end of December, UN headquarters announced last Thursday. (AFP)

Blunder Spares British Firm That Allegedly Supplied Arms to Rwanda

LONDON — A British firm that allegedly supplied arms in breach of a UN embargo to Hutu forces responsible for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda may escape prosecution because of a government blunder, a press report said.

Law officers in the Isle of Man, where Mil-Tec Corporation Ltd is based, told the *Independent* that a "prosecution would never get off the ground" because the Home office forgot to incorporate the UN embargo into Isle of Man law.

As a crown dependency, the Isle of Man is internally self-governing and has its own law-making body. British law does not therefore automatically apply to it.

The Home Office told the *Independent* on Tuesday that there had been an "oversight" and that it had failed to issue an order making the UN embargo law on the island, which is situated halfway between England and Northern Ireland.

A spokesman for the Isle of Man attorney general told the daily that when there was a UN

(Contd on Pg.15)

African Whites See Continent as a Paradise Lost

HARARE, Zimbabwe -- On manicured private school grounds, white boys dressed in white play cricket, a gentleman's game meant to instill a sense of fair play.

The sport and its traditions are a link to the old world and the old ways. It is a hand-me-down from colonialism and white rule, a genteel reminder of the days when whites built themselves a paradise in Africa.

"A black man sees the white man did better and is doing better. He says it is because I am black and because he is white. We have had the whites to blame for every ill. Now, there are so few whites left we can't blame them for everything that goes wrong."

With gun and law, whites disenfranchised blacks, took the continent's riches and prospered on the toil of poorly paid black workers and miners.

Now, a generation after Africa's great rush to independence, paradise is far less certain.

Many whites contributed greatly to Africa's development, spreading literacy, medical knowledge and technical skills. But those who stayed on wonder if they have a future in Africa, or more precisely, if their children do.

"I think as far as my generation is concerned, we are here to the bitter end," said David Irvine, who inherited a 15-acre (6-hectare) chicken farm and built it into a 10,000-acre (4,000-hectare) agricultural empire outside Harare, Zimbabwe's capital.

"We have a high standard of living, a good life," Irvine added. "Certainly I see a future for us here. Whether my son will be here in 30 or 40 years, I don't know."

Formerly white-ruled Rhodesia, Zimbabwe gained independence in 1980 after a seven-year bush war that ended with about 170,000 whites fleeing. That leaves about 100,000 whites in a country of 10.5 million people, still enough to wield influence.

A key issue now is that while whites no longer rule any country in sub-Saharan Africa, they keep a firm grip on much of Africa's wealth, ensconced inside their gleaming office towers and behind the high walls of comfortable homes.

Today many black Africans find liberation a hollow promise without economic power.

Questions about who has money, who doesn't and who is to blame are stoking age-old fires of racial tension, resentment and hate.

"It seems the white man is saying that the blacks should always feed from the white man's plate," said Phillip Chiyangwa, head of Africa Action Group, a militant black empowerment organization that sometimes resorts to threats of violence against whites in Zimbabwe.

Africa, he argues, is a black continent, a place where blacks deserve not just a piece of the pie, but most of it.

"Whites are as welcome as any other people as long as they realize they are in somebody else's country," Chiyangwa said.

Whites whose families have lived in Africa for generations, some since the 1650s, bristle at that kind of talk.

"We are a little anxious when the government refers to indigenous as meaning only black people," said Nick Swanepoel, the white president of the Commercial Farmers Union in Zimbabwe. "After independence, massive amounts of whites left the country. Those who stayed generally had the country at heart."

Whites came to Africa from all over the globe, but during the heyday of settlement and colonialism they arrived chiefly from England, France, Belgium, Portugal, Germany and the Netherlands.

The colonial powers divided up Africa and imposed their own languages, customs and architecture. Ties to the old world are still strong.

The most common criticism of white Africans is they live like expatriates in their own countries.

"That feeling of being part of a nation just isn't there," said Danny Meyer, the white president of the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce.

Most African whites live in exclusive white suburbs, join posh private clubs and go to private schools and hospitals. They depend on black workers to help them make money and clean their homes, while the black population needs the jobs offered by white businessmen.

Most blacks regard white Africans as a "necessary nuisance", said John Makumbe, a black political scientist at Zimbabwe University.

"They have focused on making money rather than on governance or social integration. But that focus has created employment; and nothing is as good at distributing economic development as employment," he said. "In Zimbabwe, whites are part of the solution, not part of the problem."

South of the Sahara, whites are only a minuscule and shrinking part of the population. In most countries, they are much less than 1%.

But many blacks in West Africa complain their leaders favor whites in a lingering vestige of colonialism. Wealthy blacks educate their children, take holidays and get medical treatment in Europe or the United States.

Despite their tiny and diminishing numbers, whites are the frequent targets of black political leaders eager to play the race card to disguise their own problems and failures. Since whites once ruled Africa with an iron fist, there is an audience ready to blame them for every failure.

"A black man sees the white man did better and is doing better. He says it is because I am black and because he is white," Makumbe said. "We have had the whites to blame for every ill. Now, there are so few whites left we can't blame them for everything that goes wrong."

White Kenyans are "an endangered species", said John Githongo, the associate editor of the business monthly *Executive* in Kenya's capital, Nairobi. They are leaving not because blacks are chasing them out but because they see their futures elsewhere, he said.

In Zimbabwe, for the first time, there is a feeling among many of the whites who stayed after black rule that there is no future.

"Verbal attacks on whites by the government of Robert Mugabe have become really pronounced over the last three years and have served to polarize the communities," Meyer said.

Many Zimbabwe whites who sent their children abroad for education or work experience are encouraging them not to return, he said. Some are so determined they sold family businesses to give their children less incentive to come home.

Only in South Africa do whites live in significant numbers. There are more than 5 million, or about 14 percent of the population of more than 40 million, and they hold most of the economic power.

"Whites have concluded they don't have a future in Africa, but in South Africa it is different," Makumbe said. "There are not such numbers leaving. Their role in political life gives them a future. There has to be a future for them in South Africa."

Countries such as the Ivory Coast and Nigeria in West Africa, Kenya in East Africa and Zimbabwe in the south have erected some barriers to whites in the economy. There is a push to force companies to hire blacks at the expense of whites.

Zimbabwe and South Africa also are studying plans to redistribute lands held by whites to black farmers.

But many blacks in West Africa complain their leaders favor whites in a lingering vestige of colonialism. Wealthy blacks educate their children, take holidays and get medical treatment in Europe or the United States.

In some countries, preferential hiring of blacks and efforts to redistribute land seek to rectify inequities caused by white-rule. Whites fear that black governments, for political expediency, will go too far and deny white children a future.

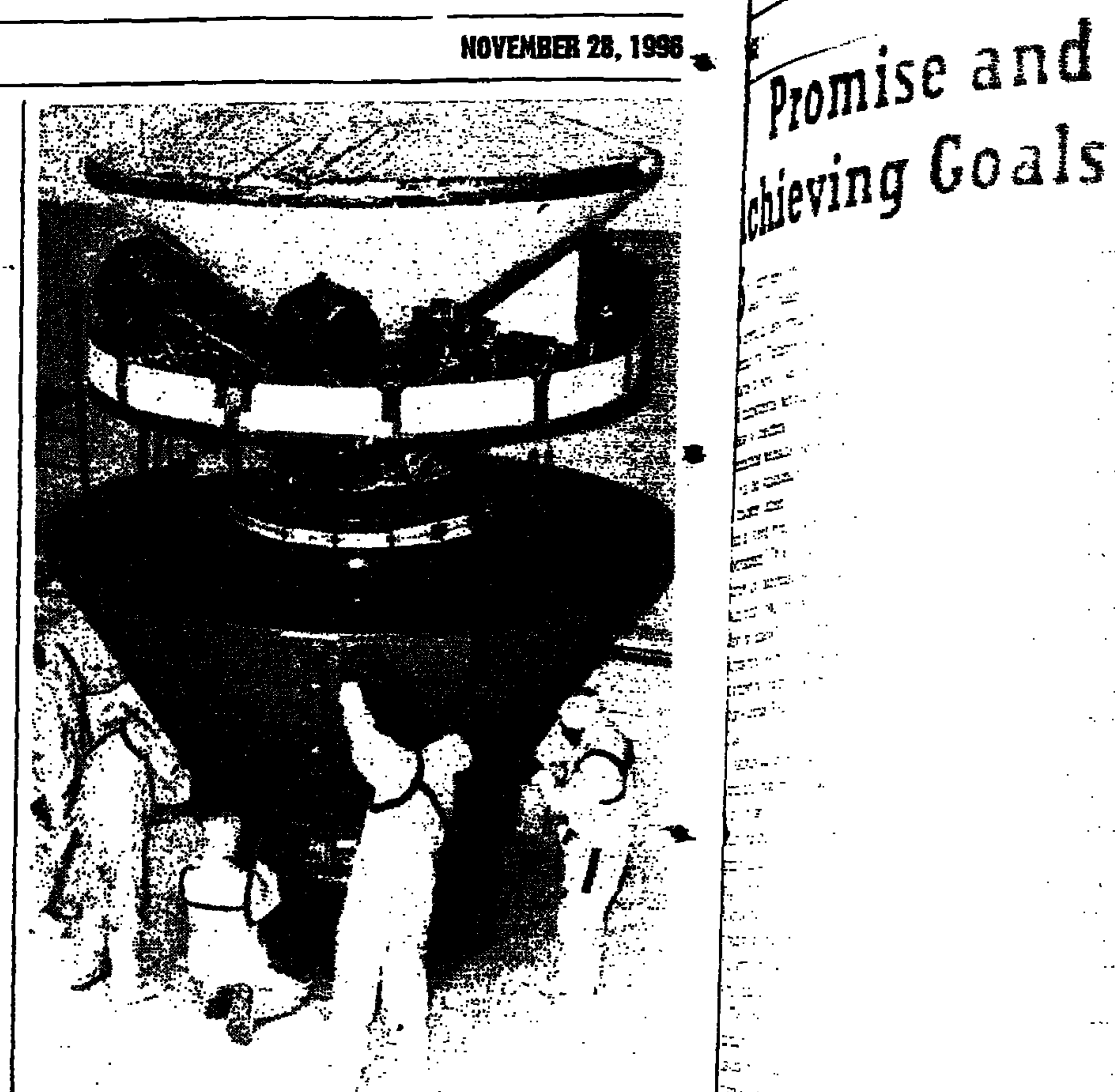
Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first black president, counters that governments must take some action to balance the ledger.

"Apartheid and other colonial societies in Africa vested power, wealth, skills and comfort within white minority communities," he said. "It is natural that liberation should entail a protracted process of spreading these advantages -- of building a better life for all."

Perhaps it is a sign of the times that years after Rhodesian whites' bloody resistance to majority rule, their last white leader, Ian Smith, looks to South Africa and sees in one black man the last best hope for African whites and racial harmony.

"Fortunately, they have a Mandela," Smith said. "My God, I wish we had a Mandela. He is Africa's first statesman."

(AP)



KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FL, United States (Nov. 22): This photo released by NASA shows the Mars Pathfinder spacecraft being prepared November 20 for encapsulation by technicians at Kennedy Space Centder for its planned December 2 launch. The Pathfinder will make an eight-month journey to Mars. It is expected to land on the Red Planet in July 1997.

(AFP PHOTO)

Last Giraffes Hit in Niger's Neighborly Gesture

NIAMEY -- West Africa's only giraffe herd has shrunk by 15 percent over the last seven months in the name of scientific cooperation between Niger and it neighbors.

Between 70 and 80 giraffes live peacefully in Niger's Koure region, 100 kilometers (60 miles) east of the capital, according to environmental specialists.

At least ten of them were killed between April and August by incompetent soldiers trying to capture them on the orders of the presidency, which wanted to give them to friendly heads of neighboring states, such as Nigeria's General Abacha and Burkina Faso's Captain Blaise Compaore, the same sources said.

Animal-lovers already lament the gradual decimation of Niger's giraffe population, caused by drought, agricultural expansion and, in rare cases, poaching.

Giraffes get on well with local inhabitants and live mainly on acacia leaves eaten directly off the tree and cause no harm to the environment.

The animals, which are hardly ever hunted, bring in valuable revenue from tourists who come from Niamey to admire the graceful animals who do not seem to mind the attention.

But Koure's giraffes, West Africa's last after the disappearance decades ago of those in Ferlo (Senegal) and Menaka (Mali), fell victim to incompetent hunters on at least five occasions between April and August, during which ten animals died and one was captured, ecologists in Niamey disclosed recently.

The soldiers responsible, having little experience of the task entrusted to them, chased the giraffes in their attempts to capture them, causing heart attacks and vertebral fractures, the ecologists said.

These incidents took place at the request of Nigerian authorities, as part of the "strengthening of scientific cooperation" between African countries, Brah Mahamane, Niger's environment minister told *Le Sahel*, a government daily, in August.

French ecologists in Niamey told AFP it would have been easy to export giraffes from overcrowded zoos, or to provide experts proficient in tranquilizing the animals to ensure their safe capture.

A single giraffe, say the ecologists, was eventually delivered to Ahuja in Nigeria and specialists question how it is expected to reproduce in solitary captivity.

(AFP)

Jet With 250 Passengers "Could Not Turn Left"

LONDON -- Disaster in the skies was narrowly averted when an engineer's torch was left in a British plane's controls, preventing it from turning left during a four-hour flight, a press report said recently.

The Boeing 757, carrying 250 holidaymakers from the Spanish Canary Islands off the North African coast to an English airport last December, had to be diverted to Manchester after the pilot announced a full emergency in the air, reported the *Independent*.

Tour operator Airtours -- Britain's second-largest tour operator -- failed to report the extent of the problem to air safety authorities, and it has only now come to light, claimed the newspaper.

If the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) had been informed of such an incident, the air accident investigation branch would almost certainly have been called in to make a full investigation, it added.

The *Independent* said it had seen a report by Ray Cockerton, captain of flight AIH 838 from Fuerteventura to the East Midlands and Newcastle Airport.

It said Cockerton details how the crew tried and failed to correct the problem, by pushing hard against the controls, each attempt to unjam the mechanism resulted in the plane lurching into a 60-degree bank.

But the paper stated that a mandatory occurrence report filed by Airtours says that pilots managed to disconnect the blocked wing flap, so that it did not restrict handling of the aircraft.

After a difficult landing at the northern English airport of Manchester, the torch, left by an engineer, was discovered in a position in which it prevented the right aileron from moving downwards.

Commenting on the *Independent*'s report, Airtours Spokeswoman Helen Wilson said: "I can confirm that an incident did take place on that flight. After the incident, a report was filed to the CAA on exactly what happened and procedures were revised to ensure that things like this did not happen again."

Asked whether the company accepted that there were inaccuracies in the safety report, Ms. Wilson said she was unable to comment.

(AFP)

Western Role in Telecoms Sale to End

LONDON -- The Russian government announced Tuesday that it is ending the work of a Western consortium led by London-based N.M. Rothschild in the privatization of the country's telecoms sector, a press report said here.

The consortium's work was to have led to a $1 billion public offering of the state's telecoms shareholdings, the *Financial Times* reported.

It will be replaced by a Russian grouping believed to be led by Alfa Bank and the Most Group, two of the largest contributors to President Boris Yeltsin's re-election campaign, the *FT* said.

Most and Alfa have outlined a purely domestic transaction in which they are expected to be not only advisers but substantial investors, the paper added.

It said the Russian government will argue that the new scheme is "preferable in investment and national security terms". (AFP)

Promise and Progress: Achieving Goals for Children

Six years ago, on 30 September 1990, 71 Heads of State and Government convened at the World Summit for Children at the United Nations in New York amid fanfares and celebrations heralding the elevation of children's issues to unprecedented political prominence.

Has the statesmen's "promise to children" made a great difference to young lives, families and communities? Or was the Summit merely an international showpiece event, long on rhetoric and short on action? The answer is surprisingly positive, according to a report by United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

Although the record inevitably varies, data from mid-decade reviews in about 90 countries clearly indicate significant progress for children towards meaningful, measurable targets. Unquestionably, this progress would not have occurred if not for the Summit and the concrete efforts it inspired.

The Summit was unprecedented in establishing at an international forum a set of specific, essentially quantifiable human development goals and stipulating a deadline for their achievement. Leaders committed themselves to reducing child deaths through disease control and other proven public health and educational measures. It was a brave as well as novel approach: countries could see clearly what they were aiming for and how to get there, but they risked disappointment if they could not achieve the objectives.

According to the Secretary-General's report, the advantages are winning out over the risks. The "goals for children agenda" has mobilized ordinary people in extraordinary ways. Over 150 countries have drawn up national programs of action, and in 70 of these, towns and communities by the hundreds — the grass-roots level where change really touches lives — have developed similar plans.

Countries as far apart as China and Mexico, Ghana and Viet Nam are still launching such programs from mayoral, gubernatorial and presidential platforms. President Nelson Mandela, for example, inaugurated a National Program of Action for Children Framework on 31 May 1996, together with similar plans for all nine South African provinces.

Thus, six years on, nations and communities are still recasting the Summit Plan of Action into new programs in a manner and to an extent that is unique in the history of the United Nations action for development. In so doing, they are providing an effective model for translating international decisions into national action and reality.

More recent international conferences, such as the 1992 Earth Summit, the 1994 Population Conference and the 1995 Social Summit, all reaffirmed the agenda for children, and countries recommitting themselves at a UN round table in 1993 to meeting the goals for children by the year 2000 established "stepping-stone" targets for 1995.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, international law since 1990, has boosted progress towards the goals. The 1993 World Conference on Human Rights urged universal ratification of the Convention by 1995 — a target all but met, with 187 ratifications as of end-August 1996 and only 6 States yet to ratify. Many countries are implementing the Convention hand in hand with efforts to reach the other goals for children.

According to the Secretary-General's report, which includes an analysis of achievements in health, nutrition, education, and water supply and sanitation, three in five countries are either on track to reach the overall goal of improved child survival or are within striking distance. The remaining two fifths, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia, face such daunting challenges as poverty, HIV/AIDS, and acute political and economic stresses.

The most impressive achievements: the world has dramatically expanded immunization services; nearly eradicated poliomyelitis and dracunculiasis (guinea-worm disease); provided 1.5 billion more people with iodized salt to prevent such iodine deficiency disorders as mental retardation and goiter; made several thousand hospitals "baby-friendly" by requiring them to encourage and facilitate breastfeeding; stayed on schedule in efforts to provide universal access to safe drinking water by decade's end; and saved a million children's lives each year by improving families' ability to treat diarrhoeal dehydration at home with oral rehydration therapy.

The report, however, is also candid about failures. The most disappointing is in child nutrition, which shows little, if any, improvement since 1990, with nearly a third of children under five in developing countries still underweight for their age. Maternal mortality — death from pregnancy and childbirth-related causes — remains a tale of unimaginable suffering for too many women, with evidence that the toll of 585,000 a year was previously under-estimated by a fifth. This neglected issue and another — increased protection of children at risk of exploitation, abandonment and abuse — are nevertheless attracting more attention in the second half of the decade, thank to the general momentum.

The world, too, is no closer to providing universal access to sanitation than at the beginning of the decade, as coverage has failed to keep up with population growth, especially in urban areas. Progress towards basic education for all is also not up to the mark, and an acceleration in efforts will be needed to meet the goal and to equalize educational opportunity for girls at a faster rate. Quick progress in reducing vitamin A deficiency is practicable and would contribute significantly to child health and survival, but nearly half the 76 countries whose children are affected have yet to move decisively.



The report points out that global goals are standards that all can aim to reach, but that countries and regions at very different developmental levels and baselines face very different prospects of meeting them. Some countries have made extraordinary efforts, but their performance is masked by the high level at which a goal is set, or by the averaging process in measurement of regional or global attainment.

When the Summit set the goals for children, some feared that reaching them might become an end in itself, and countries would ignore the need to sustain performance. So the process emphasized building human and technical capacity to run programs and monitor their impact. Part of the success has been an initiative by UNICEF and the World Health Organization to help countries improve their data collection so that they can track children's well-being and adjust program accordingly.

The mid-decade review has been useful in reconsidering strategies for reaching enddecade targets and for making adjustments in the goals themselves, but this is also a moment for celebration and recommitment. The past half-decade or so has been a time of unprecedented social mobilization for children.

Progress cannot be judged solely on whether every goal is technically on target. The impact is ore than the sum of individual parts. The Summit succeeded in creating new partnerships between governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society and international agencies in pursuit of a common purpose.

It proved that decisions taken at the top international level have the potential to fuel national and local efforts. The challenge for the rest of the decade and beyond is to keep up the momentum.

(Courtesy the UNICEF)

Achievements in Governance



To achieve UNDP's main goal of "sustainable human development" countries need to expand people's choices and allow them to participate in the decisions affecting their lives. Systems of government are required that encourage people's involvement in decision-making, stimulate economic growth and ensure that the benefits of that growth reach all segments of society. Countries increasing ask UNDP to support governance programs. Key concerns addressed are free and fair elections; freedom of association and participation; an independent judiciary; bureaucratic accountability; freedom of information; effective and efficient public sector management; decentralization of decision-making and resource management; and government interaction with organizations of civil society. Here are some examples.

Mozambique: Coordinating Electoral Assistance

As the lead organization for governance in the $550 million UN-system-wide Special Initiative on Africa, launched in 1996, UNDP is expanding support to Africa in the areas of conflict prevention, democratization and strengthening of civil society.

African countries especially value UNDP's support for their electoral processes, and UNDP helped 35 African countries coordinate support for elections over the past three years. For example, in Mozambique the first multiply elections were held in October 1994, two years after the government signed the peace agreement with Renamo. An umbrella project coordinated contributions and technical assistance from some 20 intergovernmental and bilateral donors, required to help the country develop the skills, processes and personnel needed to hold elections. While voting took place, 80 percent of eligible voters were registered, 8,000 registration agents, 1,600 civic education agents, 52,000 polling station officers and 2,000 electoral officers were trained. When voting took place, 80 percent of those registered, or 5.4 million people, took part in a peaceful and orderly election. (Duration: 1993-95; Partners: Mozambique, UN Department for Development Support and Management Services, European Union, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States)

Nepal: Participatory District Development

In Nepal, decentralization has gained momentum following the election of a democratic government in 1990. UNDP support initially helped local government officials in selected districts engage in constructive dialog with central authorities on appropriate use of district-level resources. Now, in addition to instilling capacity for effective planning, the UNDP-supported Participatory District Development Program is building up local capacity to implement development activities through village organizations that serve as effective counterparts and watchdogs for local government institutions. The approach involves people directly in planning, building, and maintaining roads, drinking water and sanitation facilities and infrastructures for electricity and irrigation. The results has been a considerable improvement in basic infrastructure in the 20 participating districts and there is a strong demand to expand the program to all of Nepal's 75 districts. (Duration: 1996-98; Partner: Nepal)

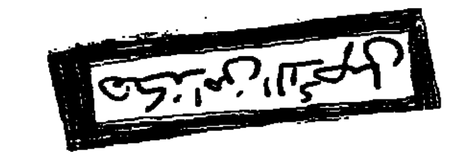
Uruguay: Streamlining Government Bureaucracy

Active in 90 countries, UNDP's Management Development Program (MDP) assists governments in designing and carrying out long-term, strategic programs to improve public sector management. In Uruguay, MDP support for PRONADE, the national debureaucratization program, helped the government save $28 million in public services and around the same amount in other areas. A new accounting and financial management law regulates public finances on the basis of efficiency, transparency and operational flexibility. New administrative procedures eliminated hundreds of bureaucratic conventions which hindered entrepreneurs and productivity in the private sector. The president of Uruguay has called PRONADE "one of the most important landmarks to be left in our country by international cooperation ... a success saving millions of dollars which has facilitated the life of citizens and leaders." (Duration: 1990-96; Partner: Uruguay)

Vietnam: Supporting Macroeconomic Stabilization

UNDP played a crucial role in assisting Vietnam to implement its macroeconomic stabilization program, initiated in 1986. A 1988-92 project undertaken with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) enabled a large number of policy and decision-makers to gain exposure to the management of macroeconomic reform in other countries, through

(Contd on Pg. 15)



Fact File on Algeria

ALGIERS — The following is a thumbnail sketch of Algeria, where a referendum on constitutional changes is to take place today amid an intensification of the four-year-old battle between activists and the government.

— **Geography:** Algeria covers an area of 2,381,741 square kilometers (952,696 square miles) and has over 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) of Mediterranean coastline.

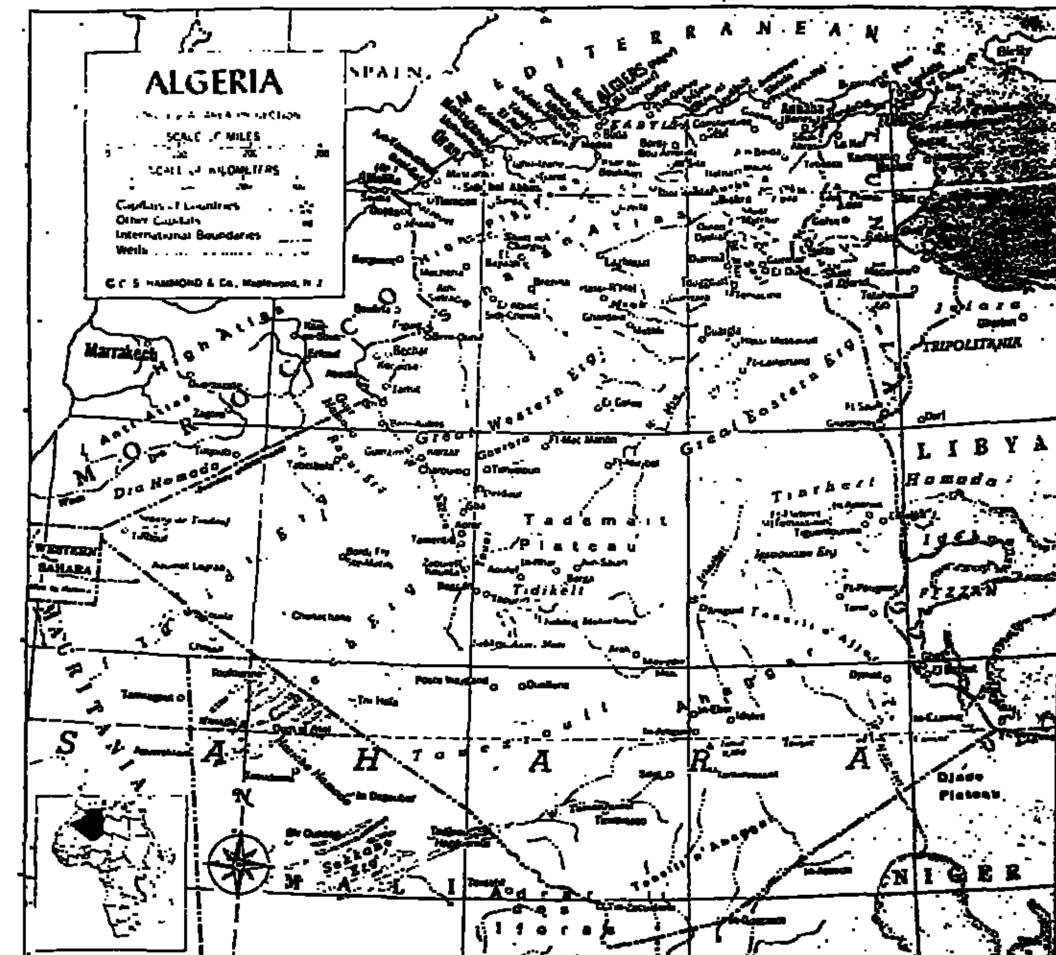
— **Population:** 28 million.

— **Capital:** Algiers. Principal towns: Oran, Constantine.

— **Languages:** Arabic (official). French and Berber.

— **Religion:** Islam (official)..

— **History:** Islam took root in Algeria after the country was conquered by the Arabs in the seventh century. It was colonized by France in 1830 and gained independence in 1962 after eight years of war. In 1963, the National Liberation Front (FLN) was set up as a single party and Ahmed ben Bella became the first president of the Algerian Republic. He was ousted on June 19 1965 by Colonel Houari Boumediene, who remained *in power until his death in 1978.*



In February 1979, Colonel Chadli Bendjedid was elected president and remained in office until he was *forced to resign on January 11,1992.* He was replaced by the High Committee of State (HCE) a collective presidency led by Mohammed Boudiaf, who was assassinated in June 1992, and then by Ali Kafi.

On January 12,1992, the second round of legislative elections was cancelled. The first round had been won convincingly by the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). The party was dissolved on March 4.

The first clashes between activists and government forces occurred in February 1992.

— **Political institutions:** Algeria is a "popular democratic republic."

— **Presidency:** On November 16 1995, Liamine Zeroual was elected president with 61.01 percent of the vote in the first pluralist presidential *elections since independence.*

— **Government:** Headed by Ahmed Ouyahia.

-- **Legislature:** The National Transition Council (CNT), consisting of 175 members, acts as a national assembly. It was installed in May 1994 by Zoroual after a national consensus conference that was almost completely boycotted by the opposition.

— **Economy:** The energy sector accounts for 95 percent of export receipts.

Algeria is OPEC's leading gas producer and the world's fourth-biggest exporter, with a production level of 113 billion cubic meters (3.95 trillion cubic feet) in 1995.

It also produces about 750,000 barrels per day of oil.

-- **Other resources:** Agriculture and livestock GNP per head: 1,690 dollars (in 1994).

— **External debt:** 31.3 billion dollars (in 1995) Armed Forces: 121,700 troops, including 105,000 *in the land forces, 6,700 in the naval* forces and 10,000 in the air forces.

(AFP)

AL-KHALIL, Palestine, (November 19): A group of arrested Palestinians is escorted by Israeli soldiers in Al-Khalil. Nine students were picked up during the night in a dormitory of the Al-Khalil Polytechnic Institute.

(AFP PHOTO)

Five Religious Parties Agree on Electoral Alliance in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — Five religious parties, including Pakistan's main activist groups, will jointly contest the next elections following the ouster of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, a spokesman said Tuesday.

The alliance of Muslim parties will soon announce a common manifesto and electoral strategy, said Qazi Hussain Ahmed, chief of the powerful Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) Party.

The agreement, which comes ahead of the country's fourth party-based general election in eight years on February 3, was reached Monday night at a meeting of the heads of the five parties, Ahmed said.

The next meeting of the leaders will be held in December to work-out an electoral plan on the basis of recommendations from several *committees also set up by the chiefs* on Monday.

Aside from the JI, the alliance comprises Jamiat Ulema Pakistan (JUP), *led by Maulana Shah Ahmed* Noorani, Jamiat Ulema Islam (JUI) of Maulana Samiul Haq, Tehrik Jafraia Pakistan (TJP), headed by *Sajid Naqvi and Arif Roopri's* Jamiat Ahle Hadith (JAH).

Ahmed said the five leaders called for drastic electoral reforms by *the interim government* appointed by President Farooq Ahmed Leghari after he dissolved the National Assembly and the *Bhutto government on November 5.*

A notable feature of the alliance is the inclusion of TJP, made up of Shia Muslims who account for 20 percent of Pakistan's predominantly Sunni Muslim population estimated at 130 million people.

There was no indication from the five parties whether they would try to bring other groups into the front in the run-up to the elections.

But the JI chief said that another group called Jamiat Ulema Islam — lead by Maulana Fazalur Rehman, who supported Bhutto and headed a foreign affairs committee during her government — would not be invited.

Also out of the front is the Sunni group, Sipah Sahaba Pakistan (SSP).

Numerous religious parties banded together in electoral alliances during the 1993 election, *but secured only about 4.5 percent* of some 20 million votes polled out of about 50 million total registered votes.

The two mainstream parties — the PPP and the Pakistan Muslim League headed by former Premier Nawaz Sharif — have not yet unveiled their election plans.

Voters and parties are awaiting the outcome of a slow-moving crackdown on political corruption by the caretaker government which has vowed to disqualify those found guilty in court from standing in the next elections. *(AFP)*

Gandhi's Widow Watches Over Congress Power Struggle

NEW DELHI — A power struggle in India's oldest political party is being "keenly observed" by the widow of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, a party spokesman said here Tuesday, amid speculation she could enter politics.

Congress (I) Spokesman Vithal Gadgil said the enigmatic Italian-born Sonia Gandhi, widely seen by many Congress members as the party's potential savior in her role as a member of the Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty, was "taking an active interest in party affairs."



He added: "She is keen for party unity. She wants to rejuvenate the Congress."

Gadgil, however, would not confirm speculation that the reclusive, highly-respected Gandhi, universally referred to as "*madam*", would take an active part in politics.

"She is there all the time behind the scenes," he said. "But I cannot say whether she will jump into party affairs full-time."

Gadgil denied that the new *Congress* President Sitaram Kesri had launched a war of attrition against his predecessor, former Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao, who *quit his post* following sweeping allegations of corruption.

"It's not personal ... it is a move to reorganize and improve the party's image," he said. "Every Congress president wants to have his own team. Even Rao dropped a few people and inducted a few people in his time."

Kesri, who succeeded Rao as Congress chief in September, sacked three party general secretaries close to the former prime minister on November 22 and also welcomed the bitter critics of Rao after they rejoined the Congress.

Rao loyalists accuse Kesri of plotting to force him to relinquish control of the powerful Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) through new elections.

"Kesri has gone mad," said Rao loyalist Dwivendra Dwivedi, who was axed as party general secretary. "This move is illegal because he is only interim president."

Former cabinet Minister K.Karunakaran, however, a bitter Rao critic, late Monday said Rao should step down from all party posts.

"Mr. Rao should resign from the CPP leadership for the same reasons *he had stepped down from the party* presidentship," he said.

Gadgil refused to comment on how Rao — the first Indian prime minister to appear in court on corruption charges and a leader who took the Congress to its worst electoral defeat — would go down in history.

"It is too early for all that," he said. *(AFP)*

Britain, China in Row Over HK's Post-97 Subversion Laws

HONG KONG — Britain said Tuesday it would introduce subversion laws in Hong Kong, forestalling a legal clampdown that Beijing is suspected of planning after the territory's July 1 handover.

Hong Kong's Secretary for Security, Peter Lai said a bill adding subversion and secession to the local statute books would be submitted to legislators next Wednesday.

The decision was taken without Beijing's approval after a fruitless, 16-month debate in the Joint Liaison Group (JLG), a Sino-British panel in charge of making key decisions on the handover, Lai said.

Local television quoted the official news agency Xinhua, which is China's de-facto representative in Hong Kong, as saying that Britain had "violated" agreements to negotiate with China on important matters relating to Hong Kong's *handover.*

"Britain will be responsible for its unilateral actions," it warned.

The JLG wrangle focussed on Article 23 of the basic law, the mini-constitution agreed by China and Britain for post-handover Hong Kong, the government of the future Special Administrative Region (SAR). (AFP)

Russian PM Vows to Pay Tzarist Debts

PARIS — Russian Prime Minister *Viktor Chernomyrdin paved the* way for talks in France on Tuesday promising Moscow will honor the debts of the former Tzarist regime, long a stumbling block in Franco-Russian relations.

Referring to Russian borrowings before the time of the Soviet regime, Chernomyrdin said in Moscow: "We will pay the debts", but gave no details.

Holders of Tzarist bonds in France, particularly, have long pressed for the redemption of the bonds.

Some 30 *million* bonds were issued at a value of 500 gold francs. The French Association for Holders of Russian Bonds (AFPER) estimates they are now worth 40,000 francs at today's prices, a total of 1.2 trillion francs (233 billion dollars).

Representatives of the 400,000 holders of bonds issued in Russia between 1880 and the 1917 Russian revolution have lobbied the bilateral *committee in a bid to put forward* their outstanding claims.

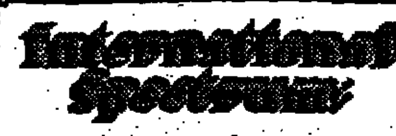
Trading in Russian bonds was suspended on Monday on the Paris bourse, and there have been rumors for weeks of an impending deal between France and Russia on the issue.

The rumors were fuelled mainly by associations representing small French bondholders and by official Russian statements reported by ITAR-TASS news agency.

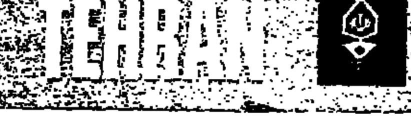
France has banned its financial institutions from making any loans to Russia until the issue of the outstanding debt has been resolved.

However, Moscow managed to raise a billion dollars on international markets last week.

(AFP)



A Glance at International Events



Tehran Times Weekend Issue
THU., NOV. 28; AZAR 8, 1375; RAJAB 16, 1417

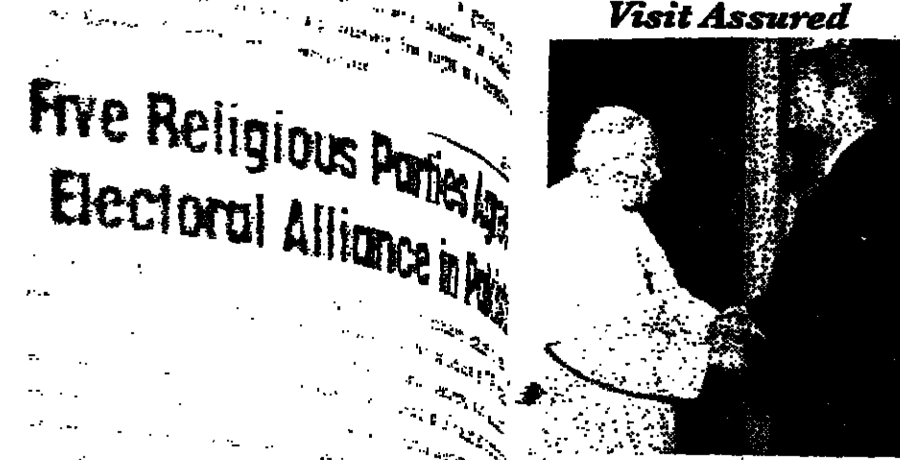

Iran Spectrum
A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

World in Highlight

Wednesday, November 20

Castro Meets Pope at Vatican, Cuba Visit Assured



Pope John Paul and President Fidel Castro met for the first time at a historical Vatican audience, that has paved the way for a papal trip to Cuba next year. Castro said that the pontiff would be treated like a king.

Amnesty International Condemns Silence Surrounding Algerian Horror



Amnesty International appealed for the world to break the wall of silence it says that surrounds the horrors of murder, torture and kidnappings in Algeria where more than 50,000 people have died.

China Not Engaged in Nuclear Proliferation

China demanded that United States cut arms sales to rival Taiwan as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher began high level talks here.

Supreme Court Takes Up Speaker's Writ Against Assembly's Dissolution

Pakistan's Supreme Court accepted a petition challenging the dissolution of the National Assembly filed by the speaker, after sacked Premier Benazir Bhutto's own legal moves were knocked back.

Arab League Slams U.S. Over Veto


Who is next?

The Arab League slammed a U.S. veto which blocked the re-election bid of UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, saying it will harm U.S. interests in the Arab world.

Thursday, November 21

Kohl: Germany Did Not Mean to Offend Iran

Chancellor Helmut Kohl assured Iranian President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in a letter that neither his government nor the German judicial authorities intended to offend the Iranian people's religious feelings or its spiritual leadership.

ICAO Wants Talks on Cuba Overflights of U.S.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) said that it had asked the United States and Cuba to resume direct talks on allowing Cuban-registered planes to fly over U.S. territory on flights to and from Canada.

UN Delays Decision on Sudan Air Embargo

The security Council delayed for a month a decision on implementing an air embargo against Sudan for failing to extradite three men wanted for an attempt to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last year, council members said.

Friday, November 22

Papua New Guinea Volcano Threatens Thousands

The Papua New Guinea authorities made plans to evacuate thousands of residents from an island after a volcano off the north coast started erupting.

Judge Says Gunman Will Never Be Released From Prison



A judge ordered that a lone gunman, Martin Bryant, 29, who showed no remorse or any sign that his disturbed personality would ever change, never be released from prison for the massacre of 35 people at a Tasmanian tourist spot.

Netanyahu Warns PLO Against Any Unilateral Moves

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued a stern warning to Palestinian leaders against reported plans by the PLO to seek UN recognition of Palestinian demands for independence.

China Reacts Angrily to Claims It Sold Weapons to Iran

China reacted furiously to a U.S. newspaper report that it had sold missile technology and nerve gas to Iran.

Saturday, November 23

Disputes Between Lukashenko and Parliament Back to Square One



A bitter tug-of-war between Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko and the Parliament plunged the ex-Soviet Republic back into crisis on the eve of a controversial referendum.

Police Fire Rubber Bullets as Protests Rise Before Pageant

Police fired rubber bullets, burst tear gas shells and swung bamboo canes to disperse three groups of people who blocked roads leading to a stadium in Bangalore, India, hours before the Miss World Beauty Pageant was to begin.

Dentally Poisons Daughter Day Before Wedding

A mother accidentally sprinkled rat poison instead of pepper on her 18-year old daughter's lunch, killing the woman the day before her wedding, the Egyptian daily, Al-Gomhuriya reported.

FBI Director to Be Briefed in Dhahran Bombing Probe

FBI Director Louis J. Freeh met with the head of Saudi Arabia's Security Service, General Saleh al-Khisayfan in the investigation into a June bombing that killed 19 U.S. airmen, officials said.

Sunday, November 24

Over 200,000 Stranded Rwandan Refugees in Mountains

While the tug-of-war is on between UNHCR and the Rwandan government over access to refugees stranded in Zaire and demand for some $ 40 million in refugee resettlement aid, over 200,000 Hutu refugees from Rwanda are stranded in mountains near the Nyabibe eastern Zairean village after fighting blocked their trek from Bukavu on the shores of Lake Kivu, to Goma on its northern banks.

Head of Seoul Bank Arrested

The head of a major South Korean Commercial Bank, Sohn Hong-Kyun, 60, has been arrested on kcharges of taking bribes from a businessman seeking illegal loans, prosecutors said...

Monday, November 25

Opponents to Chechnya Troops Pull-Out Threaten Yeltsin Impeachment



The Russian Communist Party threatened to start impeachment proceedings against Boris Yeltsin over his decision to pull the remaining troops from the Republic of Chechnya.

Islamists Save Ciller From Trial

Turkey's Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller narrowly escaped trial on corruption charges by the Supreme Court when her Islamist coalition partners voted against laying charges.

Tuesday, November 26

Negotiations in French Truckers Dispute Suspended

Marathon talks in the French truckers strike among unions, employers and a government mediator were suspended shortly after 6:00 a.m. today and will resume at 03:00 p.m.

Blood and Cuts: Simpson Can't Explain Either

Confronted with the toughest physical evidence against him, O.J. Simpson, the former U.S. football star, acquitted last year in the slayings of his ex-wife and her friend in a murder trial, could not explain howblood believed to be the victims' got into his Bronco or how he suffered hand cuts that plaintiffs claim were fingernail gouges from a death struggle.

Iran in Highlight

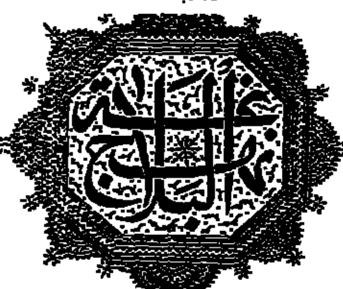
Wednesday, November 20

U.S., Israel Main Enemies of Iranian Nation



Speaking to a large crowd of Basij (volunteer-mobilization Forces) on the eve of Basij Week, the Leader of Islamic Revolution, Grand Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei described the U.S. and Israel as two notorious and wicked elements and as arch enemies of the Iranian nation.

10th Int'l Congress on Nahj ul-Balaghah to Be Held



The 10th International Congress on Nahj ul-Balaghah is to start work in Tehran on Monday Nov. 25 with the participation of Muslim ulema from all over the world.

Thursday, November 21

Promotion of Iran-Kazakhstan Relations Discussed

The Iranian Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri in a meeting in Almaty with the President of Kazakh Lower House of Representatives, Murad Ospanov, discussed further promotion of Tehran-Almaty ties in general and parliamentary relations in particular.

Iran Launches Large Scale Maneuver in Persian Gulf



A large scale maneuver code-named Pirouzi-7 (Victory-7) was launched by the Iranian Armed Forces in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, it was announced.

Friday, November 22

President Pledges to Protect Tehran-Bonn Ties

President hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani expressed hope that the recent Tehran-Bonn affairs would soon be settled and cooperation would continue between the two countries in view of the German officials' vigilance.

World Churches, Muslim Scholars in Iran Conference

The World Council of Churches, which links 400 million Christians in over 100 countries, opened its first ever conference with Muslim scholars in Tehran to discuss religion, the ecumenical body said.

Saturday, November 23

Chief of Joint Staff Congratulates Nation, Basijis

Chief of Joint Staff of Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Major General Ali Shahbazi, released a statement congratulating the nation the birth anniversary of the Commander of the Faithful, Hadhrat Ali (AS), and the Basijis who are commemorating the 'Week of Basij' that coincides with the birth anniversary of the First Imam (AS) and rightful successor of the Prophet's (S) household.

Sunday, November 24

Hashemi Elected Head of Union of Muslim Women's NGOs

Head of Iranian Women's Solidarity Society, Ms Fatemeh Hashemi, was chosen secretary general of the International Union of the Muslim Women's NGOs.

Monday, November 25

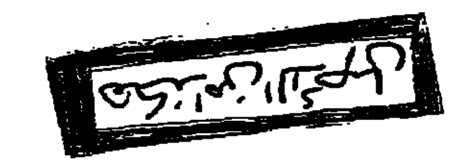
World Muslims Celebrate Birth Anniversary of Imam Ali (AS)

Muslims in Japan, Central Asian republics, Greece and elsewhere in the world celebrated the birth anniversary of the First Imam of Prophet Mohammad (S) infalliable Household Hazrat Ali ibn Abi Talib (AS).

Tuesday, November 26

Old Malayeri Bazar Renovated

The General Director of Cultural Heritage of Hamedan Province, Seyed Mohammad Aminisad announced that the renovation of the old Malayer Bazar belonging to Qajarid Era has been terminated.



How Smart Couples Handle Their Money

One's a saver; the other's a spender. Can their marriage survive?

Brian and Kendelle Glynn of New Haven, Conn., both 32, have been married seven years.

Brian, a police office, is the saver in the family. Since the wedding, he's amassed an investment portfolio of over $100,000. "We've done without a lot of things to build our financial foundation," he says. "You have to be unrelenting in your goals."

Kendelle, a computer operator, feels frustrated when she passes up the chance to buy things she feels she deserves. "I don't spend money because I want to avoid an argument," she says.

Many couples would be happier *if they could agree on money*. "It's the No. 1 problem that couples fight about," says Howard Markman, director of the Center for Marital and Family Studies at the University of Denver and coauthor of *Fighting for Your Marriage*.

Talking about money is easier if spouses agree on priorities — the need to pay off debts, a game plan for retiring in ten years, disdain for a shop-till-you-drop lifestyle.

But agreeing on financial priorities is sometimes difficult because money habits are acquired over a lifetime and aren't easily changed. "A person's attitude toward money is almost a personality trait," says Marcia Lasswell, president of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. As adults, we *tend to emulate our parents' money* habits, avoid them or do a little of both.

Many couples would be happier if they could agree on money.

"A person's attitude toward money is almost a personality traity."

Blame your in-laws if you want, but unless you believe a suitcase is a negotiating tool, you and your spouse need to allow for each other's financial traits. For example, Brian and Kendelle Glynn are working hard at compromise. On an upcoming beach vacation they'll stay in a condo, as Kendelle wanted, instead of taking the less expensive motel room Brian had in mind. "A couple of years ago I would have said, 'No, it's too much,'" Brian explains. And Kendelle doesn't expect to win every battle. "Next time I have to remember that he gave in on this."

Play to your strengths. Olivia Mellan, a Washington, D.C., psychotherapist and author of *Overcoming Overspending*, divides people into four fundamental personality types — spenders, hoarders, worriers and avoiders — based on their attitudes toward money. "Every type has some positives and negatives," she says. "But in a successful relationship, spouses complement one another."

Consider computer analysts Laura and Tom Auriemma of Jackson, N.J., who have been negotiating their financial duties through six years of marriage. Tom, 35, used to pay for bills — until he was late with a few checks, and the water and gas were turned off. Now Laura, 32, manages their finances. Both are satisfied with the system. "Laura balances the checkbook to the last penny," says Tom. "I couldn't be bothered doing it."

Laura also does the research on mutual funds and stocks, but they make investment decisions jointly. The couple's main goal is to squirrel away as much as possible before starting a family. Tom has his own plan: saving $14,000 to buy an airplane. But family needs come first. Tome recently tapped $2000 he'd saved for his plane when Laura needed a car.

Open "his and hers" accounts. Many couples deal with their money by not allowing it to become *their* mobey in the first place. What he earns is his; what she earns is hers. That's especially attractive if one or both spouses have been married before and have children to support or financial assets to manage. The perceived fairness of the system also appeals to many couples marrying for the first time.

Lynne Funk and Steve Ballinger of New York City, both 40, have been married 15 years and have two children. Lynne is an architect; Steve is a newspaper editor. They've always kept their money separate and use their own bank accounts for personal expenses. "I have more extravagant taste in some things than Steve has," Lynne says, "and I didn't want to feel I was being supported by him."

Steve thinks that with their system, "There's less potential for friction. It's a given that you have to contribute to the household." He pays the electric bill; she pays the phone bill. Each w[illegible] a check for half the rent. They split the children's expenses.

But the key to keeping score is "The Book," where Steve and Lynne log any household purchase they make alone. If Lynne uses her credit card to pay for airline tickets for a family vacation, she'll enter this in The Book. The next time a big bill comes along, Steve will cover it. Their entries have remained roughly in balance for years.

Learn to weather a crisis. The true test of any relationship is being able to survive hard times. Mary Ellen and Jim Walsh from Williamsville, N.Y., have been married 27 years. Nine years into their marriage, Jim's job as a college professor was eliminated. With student loans outstanding and a six-year-old son to support, the Walshes had to cut spending to pay for Jim's retraining for a career in health care. "Financially it was a tense time," recalls Jim, 53, who's now a nursing-home administrator.

Mary Ellen coped by offering encouragement instead of criticism. That turns out to have been the right strategy. What you don't say is crucial because criticism can drag down a partner's mood much more than encouragement can lift it.

Fend off fights. For richer or poorer, it's possible for spouses to avoid or at least diffuse most money disputes. Here are some tips:

* Talk with each other about money openly and matter-of-factly. Silence could lead to unpleasant surprises.
* Add up your debts and devise a plan to pay them off.
* Settle the issue of joint-versus-separate accounts. Either will work if you both accept it. Or you could both chip in to fund a third kitty for household expenses.
* Designate which spouse will pay bills, balance the checkbook and handle investments. Whether you pool your money or keep separate accounts, someone has to do the financial housekeeping.
* Know where your money is. Even if your spouse is the numbers whiz, you need to touch base so you know how much is in the checking account and how much you owe on your credit cards.
* Don't begrudge your spouse small indulgences. Each of you should have discretionary money to spend.
* Consult on large purchases.
* Don't criticize your spouse about money in front of others.
* Coordinate your responses when your kids ask for something, so they don't play one parent against the other.
* Discuss your goals regularly, preferably when you're not under the gun to solve a money problem. Even when you keep separate accounts, you need to coordinate financial plans — if you hope to retire *together*.

(Courtesy the Reader's Digest)

Entertaining in Style

Aspic Chicken

You will need

- 1 small roasting chicken (3 lb.)
- salt and pepper
- 1 onion, peeled
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 oz. butter
- 1 packet aspic jelly
- few sprigs parsley
- few lemon wedges
- few green pepper rings

Preparation time
10 minutes

Cooking time
1 hour

Oven setting
400°F; gas mark 6

Wipe the chicken, remove the bag of giblets and season well with salt and pepper. Put onion and bay leaf inside chicken, rub breast with butter and cook chicken in center of oven for 1 hour. Baste often during cooking.

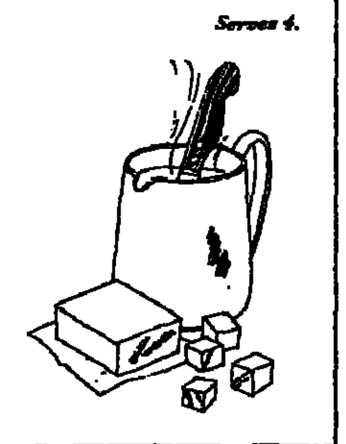
Make up aspic jelly, pour into a shallow dish and allow to set. *(See Quick Tip below)*. Wash parsley and drain.

Cool chicken on wire rack, then place on large serving dish. Chop the jelly roughly or cut into cubes and arrange around the chicken with parsley and lemon wedges. Arrange the pepper rings on top.

Serves 4.

QUICK TIP

In order to cut the aspic jelly more easily into squares or other shapes, dip the knife into some very hot water before making each incision.



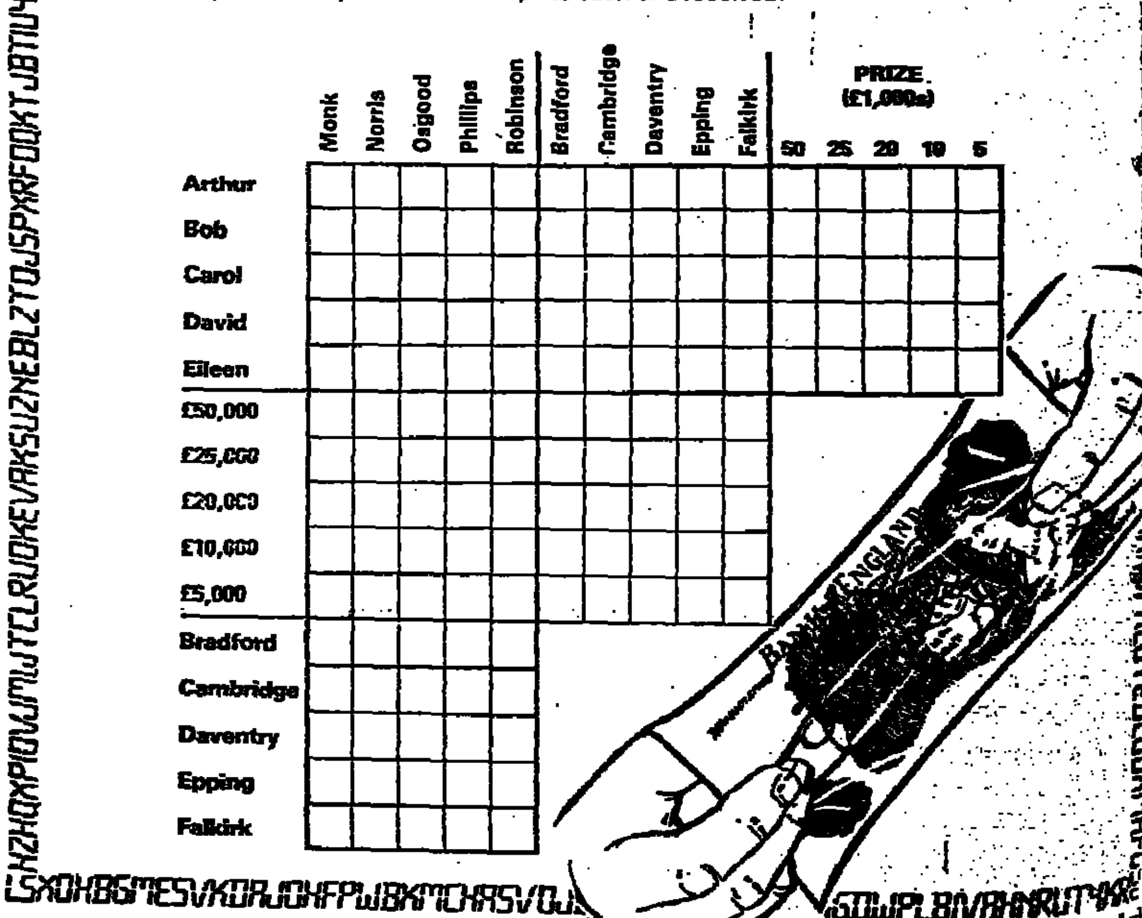
Answers to Last Week's LOGIC

Neil is the youngest (9) and as Hazel is three years younger than her brother Mark, she must be 10 and he must be 13. Diana is older than Jimmy, so she is 12 and Jimmy is 11. Hazel brought Roman candles, Jimmy brought bangers and Neil brought sparklers, so either Diana or Mark brought the rockets and the toffee-apples. As we know that Diana brought the peanuts, Mark must have brought the rockets and toffee-apples. So Diana brought the Catherine wheels. Jimmy brought some biscuits, but Neil did not bring sausage rolls, so Neil brought crisps and sausage rolls were brought by Hazel.

LOGIC..LOGIC..LOGIC

Five big cash prizes were awarded to the winning entrants in a national crossword competition. David Phillips of Epping won £5,000 less than the one called Bob, who comes from Falkirk. Arthur does not live in Bradford. Eileen Robinson of Cambridge won £5,000, but the one with the surname Monk (who comes from Daventry) did not win the top prize. Given that the person who won the top prize is called Norris, can you deduce the full names of the five winners, where they live and which prize each one received?

	Monk	Norris	Osgood	Phillips	Robinson	Bradford	Cambridge	Daventry	Epping	Falkirk	PRIZE (£1,000s) 50	25	20	10	5
Arthur															
Bob															
Carol															
David															
Eileen															
£50,000															
£25,000															
£20,000															
£10,000															
£5,000															
Bradford															
Cambridge															
Daventry															
Epping															
Falkirk															



(Solution Next Thursday)

Feature

Facets of Countries

Spotlight: South Africa

A Class Act in Glass

By A. Begg

Take a bottle of coke in your hand and, once you've finished your drink, pour out any remaining contents.

Grip it by the neck, and break it so that about a quarter of the bottle is left intact. Imagine everyone in South Africa—from Magoebaskloof to Mitchell's Plain—doing roughly the same thing, either with a glass or a bottle, and you have the answer to a frequently asked question: How much glass is being recycled in South Africa?

The answer lies in your hand.

Twenty-five percent of the annual glass production in this country is being recycled—a figure on par with countries such as the United Kingdom and that recycling heaven, the United States.

While many wouldn't have guessed that we were doing as well as the U.S., we are in fact doing better; especially when you consider that only 36 percent of our glass lands up on the dump, compared to 75 percent of the glass produced in America.

The reason we're doing so well on this score (we're nearly finished with figures) is that 40 percent of our glass market is returnable. Take two of our biggest glass users, SA Breweries and Coca-Cola, and consider that almost 70 percent of the bottles they sell are returnable. They just clean them up, fill them up and send them out again.

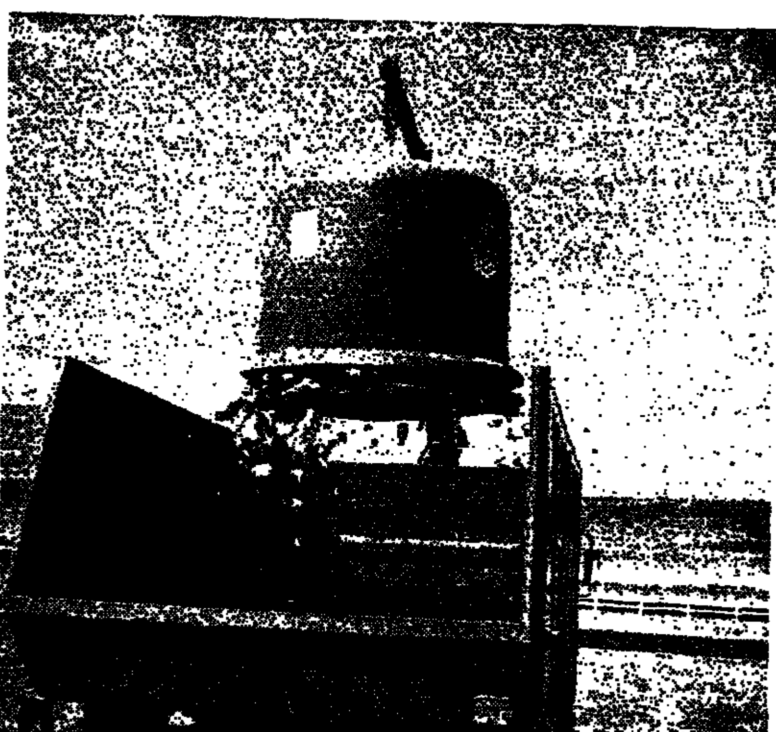
By contrast, the U.S. has no infrastructure at all for returning glass containers.

The local glass industry got into the recycling business relatively early—in 1986—when glass producers Consol and Metal Box Glass formed the Glass Recycling Association, with the specific intention of recovering cullet.

Cullet? Before you phone your nearest fish shop to order some, let me give you the paperback Oxford Dictionary's definition: "Broken glass added to new material in glass-making."

The aforementioned producers collected this cullet by putting collection mechanisms in place and encouraging the public to use them; in the more well-to-do suburbs, bottle banks sprang up, and in the poorer townships they formed partnerships with local entrepreneurs, who collect the recyclable material and deliver it to them.

At the moment, Consol Glass is helping to set up private processing operations. Next, companies such as Consol will buy cullet from agents who collect the glass from various outlets—shops, restaurants, and so on.



Glass being broken prior to recycling.

In the townships, recycling is a far more involved process, stretching from the bottle store to the dump, where hundreds of unemployed make their living from collecting recyclable materials.

But at a squatter camp north of Pretoria, a problem typical of many such areas crops up: the people who collect the material don't have the means to deliver it to the processing plant, so instead of the squatters receiving R20 for the load, a township entrepreneur will buy it for R5 and take it to the plant, where he will receive the R20.

But back to that fishy-sounding substance—cullet. Why do glass manufacturers need it? To sustain glass as a packaging material, says Consol's Ken Ensor-Smith, you must have recovery.

For this reason there are about 130 recycling outlets throughout South Africa, from Johannesburg to Knysna, plus thousands of bottle banks in every town and village.

"There shouldn't be a place you can't recycle," Smith declares. "That's why we carry the cost for outlets in far-flung places." (Just how far-flung does Knysna consider itself to be?)

That's not all, though. In financially practical terms, cullet is extremely valuable because it can be processed at far lower temperatures than virgin material, so less energy is needed. And the cost of bringing in the recycled material is the same as the cost of processing the virgin material.

Other benefits, in the purely environmental sense of the word, are that containers stationed at schools encourage pupils to recycle glass from their homes (as well as paper and tins), with the funds generated being paid to the schools. It also instils an environmental ethic into the minds of this generation of children, something we sorely lacked in the days of paper carrier bags and sandwich wrappers.

Which brings us to litter. Some say that recycling and the related benefits to communities is the single most important reason why the level of littering is dropping.

Driving around South Africa you would say it still has a long way to go—especially in areas such as the Transkei. It should be looking to Zimbabwe, for instance, for an illustration of the benefits of recycling. There is hardly any litter—because simply everything is roused.

Moreover, glass when recycled has to be separated according to color. The reason for this is that if green glass lands up in a furnace full of clear glass, it will revent the recycled product from being clear.

Then there's this perception that dumples are not suitable for recycling because there is plastic in the glass. Not true! The fact is the glass is very thin, so that it can't be refilled again and again like cold drink bottles are—but the glass can definitely be recycled. Amazing how a silly urban legend can hijack something like recycling.

Lastly, another commonly asked question. Does it matter if the bottles break when you throw them into the bottle bank? Not at all, say the producers—they get broken in the furnace anyway.

(Courtesy of On Track, Oct.-Nov. 1995)

For once, there is something "green" we do better than the Americans--we recycle more of our glass.

Brain Teaser

What's the connection?

Can you find the connection between these ten words?

Hic, riot, tern, ten, in, rolling, ties, ted, ting, rolled.

(Answers will appear next week.)

Travelogue

The Scottish Borders

(Tehran Times Service)

Windswept, sheep-studded hills and quiet valleys shroud a violent and turbulent history. Sturdy hill forts, ancient castles and ruined abbeys hint at the tumult of the past. Good for walking, fishing and riding, there are enough historic houses and quirky museums to keep you busy when the weather's unkind.

There are 14 sheep for every person in Scotland's Border region. You'll see them scattered over vast, hilly moors or expertly marshalled by panting Border collies, a black and white blur as they circle, race and crouch to gather their flocks. In its stillness and tranquility the land seems the archetypal rural idyll. It was not always so.

FIRST SIGHT

Sandwiched between the prime tourist targets of the Lake District to the south-west and Edinburgh and the Highlands to the north, the Borders see fewer visitors than you might expect. Only four per cent of Scotland's British visitors stay here overnight. Much of the time, outside the main tourist centers, you can feel as if you have the place to yourself. You'll encounter coach parties at historic houses like Floors Castle and Abbotsford, and at some of the woollen mills, but there's little of the stifling production-line tourism that has become the norm in busier holiday destinations.

Part of the joy of exploring this part of Scotland lies in discovering the very real sense of community and local pride that makes each one of the ancient burghs and textile towns special. Early summer visitors stumble upon a succession of local festivals that are truly popular, with everyone donning rosettes, attaching ribbons to their car aerials, and fixing bunting to their houses.

SCENIC DIVERSITY

The landscape is surprisingly varied. Bleak moorland switches to dense beech woods or lush pastureland in the course of a few minutes' journey, and a screen of hills subsides in a sudden cleft, revealing a previously unglimpsed valley. Walkers can choose between gentle ambles along riverbanks, more arduous expeditions into the Cheviots or the rigors of the Southern Upland Way. Most of the burghs have a town trail to guide you around their highlights. If you would prefer some company and guidance on your trip, there are a series of Ranger-led walks, from leisurely wanders, to strenuous hikes and archaeology walks accompanied by a local expert.



A placid landscape belies the Scottish Borders' turbulent history.

For 300 years, from the end of the 13th century, until relative order was restored by the Union of the Scots and English Crowns in 1603, this area (with the lands of Northumberland and Cumbria to the south), was a constant battlefield between the warring nations. Invasion, ambush, siege and burnings were commonplace.

Marauding was a way of life, within as well as between the disputed national boundaries, as feuds and vendettas between leading Border families manifested themselves in pillage, plunder and cattle-rustling. Unholy and self-serving alliances forged across the frontier undermined fragile national loyalties. For these bandits, known as the Border Reivers, the word "road" was synonymous with "raid."

The line of the border has been determined by politics and history rather than geography. Only on the approach across the Cheviot hills from Carter Bar, which yeilds a sudden dramatic view of the Tweed Valley, does the landscape offer a physical sense of frontier.

Fascinating Facts

Meet the Trunk Call System

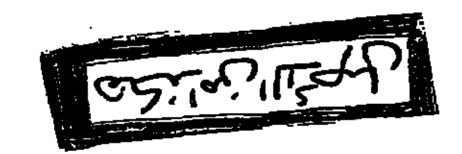
Silence, that is, to the human ear. Yet in the elephant family communication between herds, kilometers apart, is buzzing.

Be it the location of scarce water or food, the warning of danger or general communication, elephant herds can contact each other up to five kilometers away—not by triumphant trumpeting, ground stamping or even special smells, however, but by subsonic sound.

At frequencies as low as 14-35 Hz, which at their loudest are an octave below the threshold of human hearing, the elephant is able to communicate across long distances, irrespective of the terrain. Indeed, it was only aeons after the elephant "discovered" low frequency's effective transmission across bush, forest and desert, that man found the same frequencies were the best for navigation and communication between ships at sea.

Not a whisper is heard by mere man, yet a close look at the elephant's forehead shows a vibration in the skin over the nasal passage when these subsonic vocalizations are generated. Inaudible and virtually invisible, these communications are vital to the species' protection and survival.

Not least when it comes to mating. Elephants, whose circumstances take them miles away from each other—often involving days of travel—have another problem; the female becomes sexually receptive for only a few days every four or five years. It is therefore of the utmost importance for the species' preservation that males are able to locate such a female during this short space of time.



1961 - UN General Assembly calls for independence for remaining colonial peoples.

1977 - Rhodesia announce at least 1,200 deaths in its recent raids against black nationalist guerrillas across border in Mozambique.

1987 - South African Airway jet plane with 159 people aboard crashes in Indian Ocean near Maritius.

1989 - Czech authorities say they will form coalition government with non-communists. Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Ghandhi resigns after election defeat.

1990 - Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Kwan Yew steps down after 31 years in power.

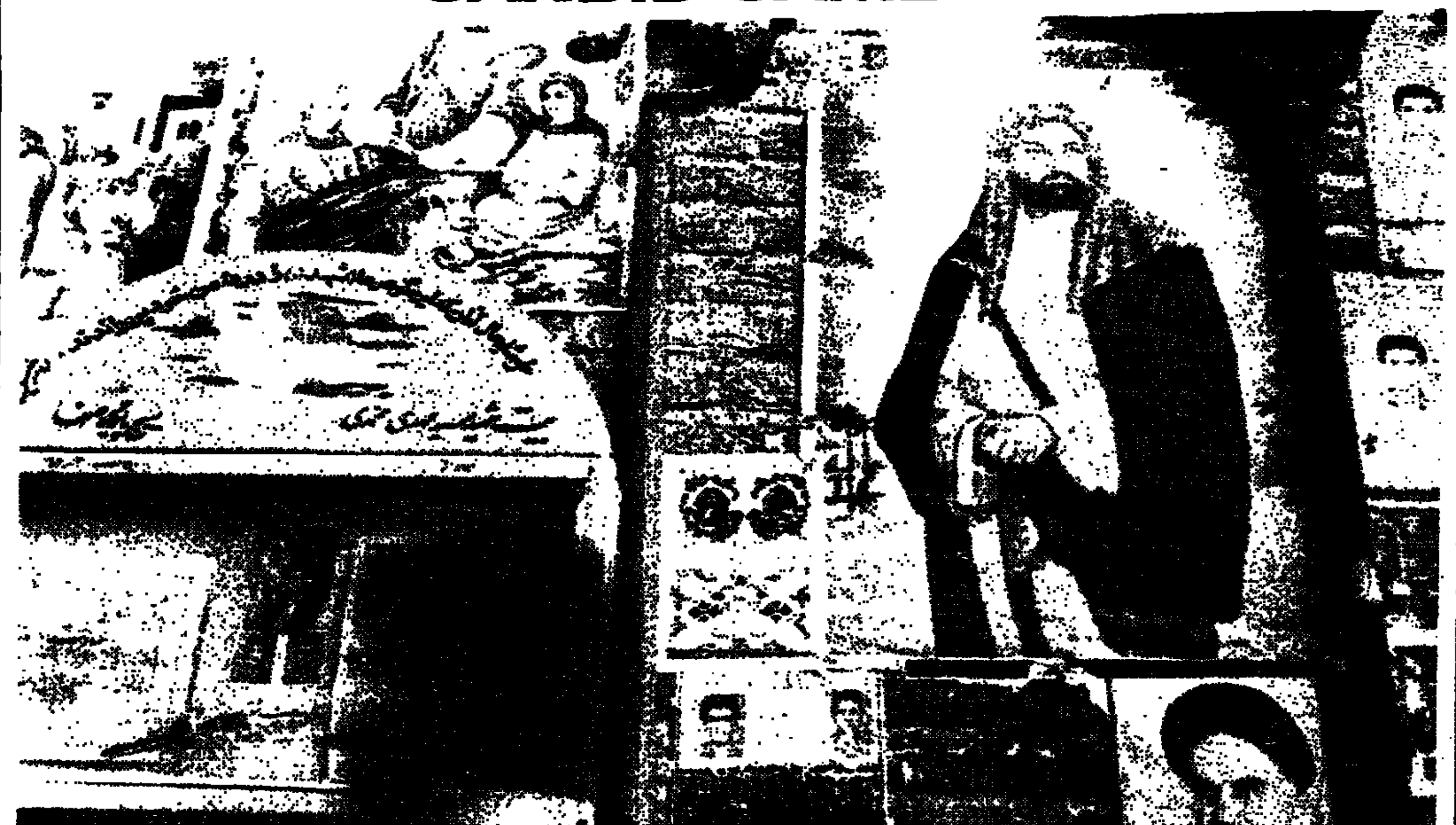
1992 - Thousands peacefully demonstrate in at least 20 German cities protesting anti-foreigner violence by youth groups.

1993 - Serb gunners lob a mortar shell into central Sarajevo killing five people and wounding eight others on the eye of new peace talks.

1994 - Norwegians reject European Union membership.

CANDID CAMERA

Photo: Abbas Kowsari



TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1990 – Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's first prime minister who had been in power since 1959, hands over office to Goh Chok Tong, the present prime minister.

1991 – Red Cross says clan battles in Somalia's capital of Mogadishu have killed more than 1,000 people.

1992 – A refugee center in Western Germany is firebombed as violence against foreigners continues despite a police crackdown on neo-Nazis.

1993 – Israeli troops capture the commander of the military wing of Yasser Arafat's PLO faction after Palestinian militants went on a shooting spree.

1994 – The U.S. House of Representatives approves GATT agreement.

1995 – Carrying banners and signs, thousands of Serbs marched to protest the unification of Sarajevo, the most contentious issue in the Bosnian peace plan.

Like a Bad Dream

By Heinrich Boll

That evening we had invited the Zumpens over for dinner, nice people; it was through my father-in-law that we had got to know them: ever since we have been married he has helped me to meet people who can be useful to me in business, and Zumpen can be useful: he is chairman of a committee which places contracts for large housing projects, and I have married into the excavating business.

I was tense that evening, but Bertha, my wife, reassured me. "The fact," she said, "that he's coming at all is promising. Just try and get the conversation round to the contract. You know it's tomorrow they're going to be awarded."

I stood looking through the net curtains of the glass front door, waiting for Zumpen. I smoked, ground the cigarette butts under my foot, and shoved them under the mat. Next I took up a position at the bathroom window and stood there wondering why Zumpen had accepted the invitation; he couldn't be that interested in having dinner with us, and the fact that the big contract I was involved in was going to be awarded tomorrow must have made the whole thing as embarrassing to him as it was to me.

I thought about the contract too: it was a big one, I would make 20,000 marks on the deal, and I wanted the money.

Bertha had decided what I was to wear: a dark jacket, trousers a shade lighter and a conservative tie. That's the kind of thing she learned at home, and at boarding school from the nuns. Also what to offer guests: when to pass the drink, and when the vermouth, how to arrange dessert. It is comforting to have a wife who knows all about such things.

But Bertha was tense too: as she put her hands on my shoulders, they touched my neck, and I felt her thumbs damp and cold against it.

"It's going to be all right," she said, "You'll get the contract."

"Christ," I said, "it m. ans 20,0000 marks to me, and you know how we need the money."

"One should never," she said gently, "mention Christ's name in connection with money!"

A dark car drew up in front of our house, a make I didn't recognize, but it looked Italian. "Take it easy," Bertha whispered, "wait till they've rung, let them stand there for a couple of seconds, then walk slowly to the door and open it."

I watched Mr. and Mrs. Zumpen come up the steps: he is slender and tall, with graying temples, the kind of man who fifty years ago would have been known as a "ladies man"; Mrs Zumpen is one of those thin dark women who always make me think of lemons. I could tell from Zumpen's face that it was a frightful bore for him to have dinner with us.

Then the doorbell rang, and I waited one second, two seconds, walked slowly to the door and opened it.

"Well," I said, "how nice of you to come!"

Drink glasses in hand, we went from room to room in our apartment, which the Zumpens wanted to see. Bertha stayed in the kitchen to squeeze some mayonnaise out of a tube onto the appetizers; she does this very nicely: hearts, loops, little houses. The Zumpens complimented us on our apartment; they exchanged smiles when they saw the big desk in my study, at that moment it seemed a bit too big even to me.

Zumpen admire a small rococo cabinet, a wedding present from my grandmother, and a baroque Madonna in our bedroom.

By the time we got back to the dining room, Bertha had dinner on the table; she had done this very nicely too, it was all so attractive yet so natural, and dinner was pleasant and relaxed. We talked about movies and books, about the recent elections, and Zumpen praised the assortment of cheeses, and Mrs. Zumpen praised the coffee and the pastries. Then we showed the Zumpens our honeymoon pictures: photographs of the Breton coast, Spanish donkey, and street scenes from Casablanca.

After that we had some more drink, and when I stood up to get the box with the photos of the time when we were engaged, Bertha gave me a sign, and I didn't get the box. For two minutes there was absolute silence, because we had nothing more to talk about, and we all thought about the contract; I thought of the 20,000 marks, and it struck me that I could deduct the bottle of drink from income tax. Zumpen looked at his watch and said: "Too bad, it's ten o'clock; we have to go. It's been such a pleasant evening! And Mrs. Zumpen said: "It was really delightful, and I hope you'll come to us one evening."

We would love to," Bertha said, and we stood around for another half-minute, all thinking again about the contract, and I felt Zumpen was waiting for me to take him aside and bring up the subject. But I didn't. Zumpen kissed Bertha's hand, and I went ahead, opened the doors, and held the car door open for Mrs. Zumpen down below.

"Why," said Bertha gently, "didn't you mention the contract to him? You know it's going to be awarded tomorrow."

"Well," I said, "I didn't know how to bring the conversation round to it."

"Now look," she said in a quiet voice, "you could have used any excuse to ask him into your study, that's where you *should have talked* to him. You must have noticed how interested he is in art. You ought to have said: I have an eighteenth-century crucifix in there you might like to have a look at, and then..."

I said nothing, and she sighed and tied on her apron. I followed her into the kitchen; we put the rest of the appetizers back in the refrigerator, and I crawled about on the floor looking for the top of the mayonnaise tube. I put away the remains of the drink, counted the cigars: Zumpen had smoked only one. I emptied the ashtrays, ate another pastry, and looked to see if there was any coffee left in the pot. When I went back to the kitchen, Bertha was standing there with the car key in her hand.

"What's up?" I asked.

"We have to go over there, of course," she said.

"Over where?"

"To the Zumpens," she said, "where do you think?"

"It's nearly half past ten."

" I don't care if it's midnight," Bertha said, "all I know is, there's 20,000 marks involved. Don't imagine they're squeamish."

She went into the bathroom to get ready, and I stood behind her watching her wipe her mouth and draw in new outlines, and for the first time I noticed how wide and primitive that mouth is.

Downtown the cafes and restaurants were brightly lit. People were sitting outside on the terraces, and the light from the street lamps was caught in the silver ice-cream dishes and ice buckets. Bertha gave me an encouraging look; but she stayed in the car when we stopped in front of the Zumpens' house, and I pressed the bell at once and was surprised how quickly the door was opened. Mrs. Zumpen did not seem surprised to see me; she had on some black lounging pajamas with loose full trousers embroidered with yellow flowers, and this made me think more than ever of lemons.

"I beg your pardon," I said, "I would like to speak to your husband."

"He's gone out again," she said, "he'll be back in half an hour."

In the hall I saw a lot of Madonnas, gothic and baroque, even rococo Madonnas, if there is such a thing.

"I see," I said, "well then, if you don't mind, I'll come back in half an hour."

Bertha had bought an evening paper; she was reading it and smoking, and when I sat down beside her she said: "I *think you could have talked about it* to her too."

"But how do you know he wasn't there?"

"Because I know he is at the Gaffel" Club playing chess, as he does every Wednesday evening at this time."

"You might have told me that earlier."

"Please try and understand," said Bertha, folding the newspaper. "I am trying to help you, I want you to find out for yourself how to deal with such things. All we had to do was call up Father and he would have settled the whole thing for you with one phone call, but I want you to get the contract on your own."

"All right," I said, "then what'll we do: *wait her half an hour, or go up right* away and have a talk with her?"

"We'd better go up right away," said Bertha.

We got out of the car and went up the elevator together. "Life," said Bertha, "consists of making compromises and concessions."

Mrs. Zumpen was no more surprised now than she had been earlier, when I had come alone. She greeted us, and we followed her into her husband's study. Mrs. Zumpen brought some drink, poured it out, and before I could say anything about the contract she pushed a yellow folder toward me: "Housing project Fir Tree Haven, I read, and looked up in alarm at Mrs. Zumpen, at Bertha, but they both smiled, and Mrs. Zumpen said: "Open the folder," and I opened *it*; inside was another one, pink, and on this I read: "Housing Project Fir Tree Haven — Excavation Work." I opened this too, saw my estimated lying there on top of the pile; along the upper edge someone had written in red: "Lowest bid."

I could feel myself flushing with pleasure, my heart thumping, and I thought of the 20,000 marks.

"Christ," I said softly, and closed the file, and this time Bertha forgot to rebuke me.

"*Prost*," said Mrs. Zumpen with a smile, "let's drink to it then."

We drank, and I stood up and said: "It may seem rude of me, but perhaps you'll understand that I would like to go home now."

"I understand perfectly," said Mrs. Zumpen, "there's just one small item to be taken care of." She took the file, leafed through it, and said: "Your price per square meter is thirty pfennigs below that of the next-lowest bidder. I *suggest you raise* your price by fifteen pfennigs: that way you'll still be the lowest and you'll have made an extra four thousand five hundred marks. Come on, do it now"! Bertha took her pen out of her purse and offered it to me, but I was in too much of a turmoil to write; I gave the file to Bertha and watched her alter the price with a steady hand, re-write the total, and hand the file back to Mrs. Zumpen.

"And now," said Mrs. Zumpen, "just one more little thing. Get out your check book and write a check for three thousand marks; it must be a cash check and endorsed by you:"

She had said this to me, but it was Bertha who pulled our check book out of her purse and made out the check.

"*It won't be covered*," I said in a low voice.

When the contract is awarded, there will be an advance, and then it will be covered," said Mrs. Zumpen.

Perhaps I failed to grasp what was happening at the time. As we went down in the elevator, Bertha said she was happy, but I said nothing.

Bertha chose a different way home, we drove through quiet residential *districts, I saw lights in open windows*, people sitting on balconies drinking cock; it was a clear, warm night.

"I suppose the check was for Zumpen?" was all I said, softly, and Bertha replied, just as softly: "Of course."

I looked at Bertha's small, brown hands on the steering wheel, so confident and quiet. Hands, I thought, the sign checks and squeeze mayonnaise tubes, and I looked higher — at her mouth, and still felt no desire to kiss it.

That evening I did not help Bertha put the car away in the garage, nor did I help her with the dishes. I poured myself a large drink, went up to my study, and sat down at my desk, which was much too big for me. I was wondering about something. I got up, went into the bedroom and looked at the baroque Madonna, but even there I couldn't put my finger on the thing I was wondering about.

The ringing of the phone interrupted my thoughts; I lifted the receiver and was not surprised to her Zumpen's voice.

"Your wife," he said, "made a slight mistake. She raised the price by twenty-five pfennigs instead of fifteen."

I thought for a moment and then said: "That wasn't a mistake, she did it with my consent."

He was silent for a second or two, then said with a laugh: "So you had already discussed the various possibilities?"

"Yes," I said.

"All right, then make out another check for a thousand."

"Five hundred," I said, and I thought: It's like a bad dream — that's what it's like.

"Eight hundred," he said, and I said with a laugh: "Six hundred," and I knew, although I had no experience to go on, that he would now say seven hundred and fifty, and when he did I said "Yes" and hung up.

It was not yet midnight when I went downstairs and over to the car to give Zumpen the check; he was alone and laughed as I reached in to hand him the folded check. When I walked slowly back into the house, there was no sign of Bertha; she didn't appear when I went back into my study; she didn't appear when I went downstairs again for a glass of milk from the refrigerator, and I knew what she was thinking; she was thinking: he has to get over it, and I have to leave him alone; this is something he has to understand.

But I never did understand. It is beyond understanding.

GRAFFITI

